

NATIONAL X PRESS

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JAN/FEB 2009 | VOLUME 10

WINTER SUNDAYS

Worship at 9:15 and 11 a.m.

January 11

"A Young Man in Damascus"
Rev. Earl Palmer, preacher

January 18

"A People Called Christian"
Rev. Earl Palmer, preacher

January 25

"To Know Who We Really Are"
Rev. Earl Palmer, preacher

February 1

"Good News for Three Men in Jail"
Rev. Earl Palmer, preacher

February 8

"Paul's Grand Speech"
Rev. Earl Palmer, preacher

February 15

"Advantages and Disadvantages"
Rev. Earl Palmer, preacher

February 22

"Peter Stood Up"
Dr. Douglas Learned, preacher

March 1

First Sunday of Lent

"Shipwreck at Malta"
Rev. Earl Palmer, preacher

To learn more about our worship, classes, and opportunities to serve, visit: www.NationalPres.org

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DEADLINES

March/April: February 1

May/June: April 1

July/August: June 1

September/October: August 1

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Called to Serve at National *New Opportunities for Involvement at National*

Last fall, NPC's congregation voted to change our church governance from bicameral (two boards: elders and trustees) to unicameral (one board of 18 elders, known as the session).

A top priority for the session in 2009 is to work continually with committees to involve more NPC members and friends in the life of our church. Our elders rely on lay leadership in all areas, and everyone in the church is encouraged to serve in areas in which they are gifted and about which they are passionate.

In the major areas of our ministry (nurture, discipleship, missions, administration, and strategic planning), our leadership teams are comprised of and supported by our congregants (that means you!).

One of the ways to become involved in the life of our church is through the Connections Ministry, led by staff member Leslie Saum and her team of Connections volunteers. Connections works with leadership to provide information matching those in our congregation who have par-

ticular gifts and skills with the needs in different ministry areas.

Within this church-wide partnership, Connections equips ministries to monitor and track volunteer involvement, better balancing our stewardship of lay leaders' time and talents with the call to everyone in the congregation to serve.

In addition to fulfilling our call to serve, becoming involved at NPC has lots of wonderful benefits. You'll get to know one another better, and NPC will truly become your church home. You may learn how to arrange flowers or cook turkeys. You may read scripture or sing in the choir on Sunday mornings.

Don't wait to be called! Contact Leslie Saum, LSaum@NationalPres.org or 202.537.7494. You may also fill out a brief Connections form online by visiting www.NationalPres.org and clicking on "Serve," then "Connections."



How Does It Work? *Unraveling the Mystery Behind Nominating Church Officers*

by Bill May, Chairman, 2008 Officer Nominating Committee

You may have wondered how our church comes up with the slate of nominees for church office that's presented to the congregation each year at our fall congregational meeting. As chairman of this past year's Officer Nominating Committee, let me see if I can give you a bird's eye view of that process.

Each year the Officer Nominating Committee is chosen from members of the congregation and given the task of

discerning God's will in seeking church officers for the following year. In 2008, the committee was responsible for presenting a slate of candidates for the newly redesigned Session, as well as for the Board of Deacons, next year's Officer Nominating Committee, and members of the board of the Fund for Charitable Giving.

The 2008 Officer Nominating Committee was made up of congregants Bruce
Continued on page 5

Meet Our Member Missionaries

Among NPC's partners in mission around the world are six NPC members actively engaged in Christian mission organizations. On February 1 we'll have an opportunity to get better acquainted with them and their work. On that Sunday there will be displays in Stone Hall featuring their ministries and giving the congregation a chance to talk with them. The following is a brief introduction to each member missionary.

John Bernbaum is founder and president of the Russian-American Christian University (RACU). Located in Moscow, RACU is the first private faith-based liberal arts university to be accredited in Russia. RACU seeks to equip Russian students for leadership roles in their local communities, the marketplace, their churches, and their nation. For more information, visit www.racu.org.

Mary Lou Lyon is a director with CrossCare International. CrossCare offers help and healing to ministry professionals working in the U.S. and abroad, through a holistic program providing spiritual, mental, and emotional support grounded in Christian faith and practice. Mary Lou also retains ties with eastern Europe after her years of ministry there. In 2008 she traveled with NPC members David Wallace and Phyllis Wolfe to Poland to teach the Alpha Marriage Course to couples from four churches. The purpose of the trip was to train leaders who will continue to teach the marriage course in their respective churches. Mary Lou's website is <http://maryloulyon.com/default.aspx>.

Peggy McCracken works with Christian Embassy in outreach to government and diplomatic leaders here in Washington. Her primary fo-

cus is with women diplomats, wives of diplomats, and women who are chiefs of staff to members of Congress. The

Keith Patman, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Central African Republic



John Bernbaum, Russian-American Christian University, Moscow



Peggy McCracken, Christian Embassy, Washington, DC



Steve Quakenbush (above), Wycliffe Bible Translators, Philippines, with wife Janice and son



Mary Lou Lyon, (on right) CrossCare International, Washington, DC, with Phyllis Wolfe.

staff of Christian Embassy is currently reaching out to those recently elected and appointed to the new administration in Washington. For more information on Peggy's mission, please visit the web site: www.christianembassy.com.

Keith Patman serves with Wycliffe

Bible Translators, providing training and biblical resource tools in French for Africans who are translating the Bible into their own languages. He is currently involved in trips to Central African Republic to help lead a workshop series for those translating Luke's gospel in four languages.

Continued on page 5

Demystifying the Nominating Process

Continued from page 1

Boyd, Woody Cunningham, Harry Johnson, Janice Sessing, Nancy White, and me. In addition, John Freeman represented the elders, Jim Ransom and Matthew Teems, in turn, represented the trustees, Gene Thompson represented the deacons, and Dr. Icenogle and Dr. Learned, in turn, served as ex-officio members.

Starting in March, the committee met each week through the middle of November, except for a two-week break in July. We began our work by preparing to receive recommendations from the congregation and speaking with the pastors and others in leadership to better understand what kinds of people we would need to put on the slate for the upcoming year. Dr. Icenogle was instrumental in helping the committee come together in its understanding of Christian leadership qualities needed to take us into the future.

The committee decided to seek more input from the congregation than has been sought in recent years. In the last several years, the number of recommendations received from the congregation was fewer than one hundred. This year, in addition to

using the usual means of getting the word out (brochures, announcements in worship, and a page on the web site), we asked NPC's youth to make a video about nominating church officers. This brief, humorous look at nominating church officers was shown on Sunday mornings in Stone Hall to remind people how important it is to make recommendations. The video became quite a success, and we eventually received a record 350 recommendations.

When we started, there were vacancies that needed to be filled immediately. In June 2008, three new deacons were elected at the recommendation of the nominating committee, and their work began even before they were installed later in the year.

When Session approved moving toward a unicameral board structure, the Officer Nominating Committee began to adjust to the changes. Our new bylaws stipulate that a minimum of one-third of the people on our elder slate have the skills to handle the business affairs of the church. The committee had to make sure that there were enough candidates with



Bill May

the needed skills. We were blessed to have Dr. Learned as our ex-officio member, as he helped us understand the kinds of abilities and gifts that are needed on the new session. Once we finished selecting nominees, we had more than the required number of qualified individuals to fill those slots.

The committee is grateful for the assistance of staff, in particular Holly Novak, Sonny Rimback, and Leslie Saum. With this assistance, along with a lot of prayer, we finished on time with what I believe is a wonderful session for the coming year. We ask you to join us and share our excitement as we pray for our new leadership in 2009.

Missionaries

Continued from page 2

Steve and Janice Quakenbush returned last year to the United States after having served with Wycliffe Bible Translators in the Philippines since 1984. They have left with the local Agutaynen community a New Testament and other publications in the Agutaynen language. The Agutaynen Scriptures have been recognized as an important contributor to revitalizing the spiritual well-being of the community. Steve and Janice are living in Grand Rapids, MI while finishing projects related to their work in the Philippines and preparing for a new assignment in the Wycliffe-affiliated



John and Gaelyn Wagner, Young Life, Washington, DC

International Linguistics Center in Dallas.

For more information on the work of Wycliffe Bible Translators, visit

www.Wycliffe.org.

Rev. John Wagner serves as Young Life's Senior Vice President for the Eastern Division. John is also a valued NPC Ministry Associate. Young Life's goal is to give adolescents and teenagers hope for the future by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. For more information, see <http://sites.younglife.org/sites/EasternDivision/default.aspx>.

Most of our NPC mission partners send us regular updates on their work. To see the most recent missionary newsletters, stop by the Information Desk. You may also ask any of our missionaries to add you to their postal or electronic mailing list so that you will receive their news directly.

Rev. Earl Palmer Teaches Wednesday Series on Author C.S. Lewis

“Teller of Stories and Man of Faith” Is Highlighted in Series

NPC's Preaching Pastor-in-Residence Earl Palmer will teach a Wednesday evening series, beginning January 14 on 20th century Christian author and academic C.S. Lewis.

Lewis' works include the fantasy books of *The Chronicles of Narnia*, recently popularized in a full-length feature film. He also wrote several books on heaven and hell, including *The Screwtape Letters*, which consists of correspondence from a senior demon, Screwtape, to his nephew, Wormwood, on the best ways to tempt a particular human and secure his damnation.

In 2000, the magazine *Christianity Today* named Lewis' book, *Mere Christianity*, the best book of the 20th century.

Join us this month to hear Rev. Palmer's teaching on a wonderful subject, each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m., following a buffet dinner from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. in Stone Hall. For dinner reservations, call 202.537.0800.

January 14

C.S. Lewis -
His Own Journey

January 21

C.S. Lewis -
The Writer and Friend of
All Story Tellers

January 28

The Apologist to Our
Generation for Christian Faith

February 11

His Boldest Book:
A Reflection on *The Screwtape Letters*

February 18

The Stories We Love Best:
Chronicles of Narnia



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