

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor
Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education
Barbara Holland Cooper, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director
Amy Shortt, Interim Organist
James Fowler, Seminary Intern

March 26, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

*Enter Reverently, Meditate Quietly, Worship Devoutly,
Leave Gratefully, Serve Christ Faithfully*

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Amazing Grace
Chime Choir

arr. Thompson

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In celebration of Women's History Month,
we highlight the accomplishments of a few women in the Presbyterian Church.

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Exodus 15:20-21)

Leader: Then the prophet Miriam took a tambourine in her hand;
And all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.

**People: And Miriam sang to them:
"Sing to the Lord, for our God has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider God has thrown into the sea."**

Leader: We come singing and dancing with Miriam and the other sisters who know God's saving power.

People: That we may be renewed as faithful witnesses to Your death and resurrection and filled with Your Spirit to serve in love.

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: Generous God, You are present in all times and places, capture our attention in this time and place. Open our eyes to see the wonders You provide. Open our ears to hear Your instruction. Open our hearts to care deeply about people in need, whatever that need might be. Awaken our generosity and sense of justice, that we may be in-

spired to helpful action. Open our mouths to shout and sing together for joy, sharing the good news of salvation. Amen.

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*HYMN OF PRAISE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

#464

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Our ancestors in the faith sometimes sought vengeance on their enemies. Jesus challenged his friends to listen and reconcile with those with whom they disagreed. Paul counseled followers to put away resentment and harmful behavior. There is much in *our* lives that is harmful to ourselves and others that leads to brokenness and pain. Let us confess our need for healing and mercy. Let us confess our sins in God's presence.

All: Loving and merciful God, You create each of us in Your image. You grace us generously with Spirit gifts. You prepare each of us for unique ways of loving You by serving each other. Yet we tarnish Your image; we waste our gifts; we run from Your call to follow; we fail to live in peace with others. Have mercy on us, Holy One. Bathe us with Your Spirit to give us strength for living with loving-kindness. Hear these and all our silent prayers. We make our prayers through the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#324

**Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.**

**Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: From the New Testament letters to Timothy and to Peter, hear this good news: "Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ...and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ prays for us! Anyone who is living in Christ is a new creation." Thanks be to God! Amen. Believe the good news of the Gospel;

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI (kids' pink page)

#579

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

- Reader 1: O God, we give thanks for women of Your church, who, with integrity and depth of faith, have led us to hear Your call to serve.
- Reader 2: For Mary Magdalene, Mary of Bethany, Martha, Priscilla and Lydia, who showed us how to listen, how to learn and serve with courage.
- All: For missionaries like Betsey Stockton who dared to reach out into the world with Your diligence and grace, O God, we celebrate You.**
- Reader 1: For Katherine Bennet, first woman permitted to speak to the General Assembly, we thank You, O Living Word.
- All: For Women's Board of Home Missions and for Presbyterian Women who paved the way for leadership of all women, we praise You.**
- Reader 2: For the first women Deacons whose names have been lost; for Sarah Dickson, first woman to be ordained an Elder. For Margaret Towner and Virginia Bunning, first women to be ordained as Ministers of Word and Sacrament, we celebrate You.
- Reader 1: Holy One, we thank You for women of our past who have given us a future. For our sisters: Eva Royster McEwen, Daisy Hampton Reeves, Ethelyn Amanda Hoagland Allison and Annie VanZant Moore May, first Deacons and Elders of Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey.
- All: For Elizabeth Kwon, first Korean-American woman ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament, we celebrate You, Holy One.**
- Reader 2: We thank God for Lois Harkrider Stair, first woman elected Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
- Reader 1: For Miriam Ophelia Ortega, first Hispanic woman to be ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament, we celebrate You, Holy One.
- All: For Katie Geneva Cannon, first African-American woman ordained Presbyterian Minister of Word and Sacrament, we praise You.**
- Reader 1: We celebrate, O God, for Holly Haile Smith, first Native American woman ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament.
- Reader 2: For Elder Gloria Frederick, member of Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church, first African-American woman elected as Moderator of New Brunswick Presbytery.
- Reader 1: For the ministry of all women: pilgrims and prophets, preachers and priests, deacons and elders, clergy and commissioned lay pastors, professors and mentors, educators and musicians, inquirers, candidates and students, all who joyfully accept Your call to them.
- All: We thank and praise You, Holy One, for the lives of women, here on earth and those with You in heaven, all who give us hope for our own ministries, now and for the future. Amen.**

*HYMN

We Celebrate All Women

(insert)

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 16:1-16

Pages 12-13

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Andante
Yuri Ito, Flute

Bach

SERMON

Being Woman – Becoming Visible

Rev. Muriel Burrows

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (kids' orange page)

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,
and put your trust in the Lord.*

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY (kids' red page)

#592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Leader: Lord, here we are; send us and these gifts into the community around our church.

People: Send us and these gifts into the schools, into the business world to create opportunities for an abundant life.

Leader: Send us and these gifts into the political world where the struggle for values near and dear to Your own heart takes place.

People: Send us and these gifts into the world to love it and cherish it as your own.

Leader: Then we will know that we have lived and loved well through this precious gift that you have given us.

People: We offer both our lives and these gifts in the service of Christ and his kingdom.

All: Amen.

*HYMN

Called As Partners in Christ's Service

#343

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION

A Quiet Place
Cortné Edmonds, Violin

Carmichael

* Congregation stands

** Latecomers ushered in

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME - The Pastor, Elders and Deacons of Witherspoon welcome most warmly all worshipers. Our fellowship is enriched by your presence. If you do not have a church home of your own, we do sincerely invite you to be a part of our fellowship. Please contact the church office for further information if you are interested in church membership (609) 924-1666.



SUNDAY SCHOOL WEEKLY FOR ALL AGE GROUPS! Sunday school classes for adults and students in grades 5-12 begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. (The adult class is exploring the lectionary passages together each week before the service.) Students in grades 1-4 will be dismissed for their Sunday school class immediately after the children's message. (A nursery is available for children in preschool and kindergarten.)

NURSERY CARE is provided for children 0-5 during Sunday school (9:00) and worship (10:00). Today Karen Delk is assisting with nursery care; next Sunday's nursery care will be assisted by John Crutcher.



FLOWERS - Flowers for today's service were given by *Peacemaking* in honor of *Women's History Month* and by the *Verse Speaking Choir* on the *20th anniversary of its founding on March 26, 1986*. If you would like to provide flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, or simply to beautify the church, please sign up on the chart located on the door of the sound room (left-hand entrance from the sanctuary to the parish house). After worship service, the donor may take the flowers home. At present, it is the responsibility of the person giving the flowers to make his/her own arrangements for preparation and delivery of the flowers for the Chancel. The next available date is April 9.

USHERS for this morning's service are Elaine Walker and Eugene Marsh.



COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for a Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall following this morning's worship service hosted by the Verse Speaking Choir. Host for the month of April is Valerie Smith. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Valerie (609-799-1817).

ATTENDANCE at the service of March 19 was 134.

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, April 2, is Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-2; Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33.

DOLLAR\$&CENTS COUNTERS FOR APRIL are Barbara Cooper (Team Leader), Rolston Gaiter and Briallen Hopper. Counters for the Deacon's Benevolence Offering are Joyce Abbott, Barbara Brown, and Vicki Meisel.



THE PHYSICAL PLANT COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP! They will soon clear unnecessary items from the back of the Fellowship Hall. A list of items your group uses should be provided to Adrienne Daniels today. All unclaimed items will be removed.



COUNTERS DESPERATELY NEEDED!!! – At least four people are needed to join our counting teams. Even if you are unable to count every Sunday during a designated month, you can still sign up to count on the Sundays you are available. Training provided. Please see Ron Smith or leave a message in the church office.



FOOD DONATIONS FOR CRISIS MINISTRY – The Deacons are collecting cans or boxes of potatoes, pasta, rice and beans and canned meats, fish and poultry for the Crisis Ministry. *****NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE.***** Other nourishing food will also be accepted. Checks made payable to the Crisis Ministry are always welcome and may be placed in the offering plate or given to a deacon. Please consider an extra purchase during your next grocery shopping trip and place items in the wooden box in the Narthex.



PROPERTY ACQUISITION FUND UPDATE

As of March 19, the Property Acquisition Fund has accumulated **\$83,961.18** in cash, out of a total \$110,000 we have committed to raise.



TUESDAY PRAYER GROUP is getting a fresh start on **April 4**, at Alice Satterfield's home (30 Quarry Street). All are welcome to join them at 9:30 a.m. They will meet the first Tuesday of each month.



CHILDREN'S MISSION YEARBOOK for Prayer and Study are available in the narthex for all families with children. Pick up yours today!



CHURCH CALENDAR – A copy of the WSPC calendar for April is inserted in this bulletin. Please review it and contact the Church Office with any additions or corrections **by this Wednesday, March 29**. The updated calendar will be posted in the rear hallway.



SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR – The renowned Soweto Gospel Choir – direct from South Africa – will be performing a **ONE NIGHT** engagement at McCarter Theatre on **Tuesday, April 4**, at 8:00 p.m. For tickets for more information, please contact Mary Goddard (732-821-4748) or McCarter Theatre directly. Don't miss these wonderful

“voices from heaven” in a once-in-a-lifetime performance.



A BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT: WAY OF TORTURE, WAY OF THE CROSS – We live in difficult and dangerous times. In addition to the complexities of wartime and the ongoing threat of terrorism, today we face a challenge that threatens our very identity as Christians. This Bible study aims to engage Christian adults in a consideration of the crisis of torture and abuse from a biblical and theological perspective. The purpose of this study is not merely a better understanding of a very disturbing ethical issue, rather it is to motivate and equip Christian people to act in opposition to torture and abuse.

Tonight’s session will be held at Nassau Presbyterian Church, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

There is no cost.

March 26*Breaking the Cycle of Violence*..... written by Joyce MacKichan Walker

April 2*Following the Resurrected One* written by Rick Osmer



FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY – My children will be on spring break April 14-21. Therefore, I will not be in the office during regular hours, but will work at home and come into the office as necessary. You may leave messages at the office (609-924-1666) or call me directly (609-581-1952). This line is dedicated to WSPC use and is equipped with an answering machine. You may e-mail the church (witerspoon@verizon.net); I will check church e-mail regularly. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I appreciate your flexibility and will gladly work with you.



Next Sunday, April 2

**Please remember that time
springs forward one hour.**