

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

124 Witherspoon Street
Princeton, NJ 08542-3224

Office (609) 924-1666 • Fax (609) 924-0365 • Church Building (609) 924-1332

E-mail: witerspoon@verizon.net

Website: www.witerspoonchurch.org

Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor
Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education
James Frederick, Lector

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

April 2, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

More Love to Thee

Traditional

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The days are surely coming, says our God;
The day is here to affirm a new covenant.

**People: We call on God's steadfast love and mercy.
We seek a strong and vital relationship with our God.**

Leader: God's law will be written on our hearts.
Our Creator claims us and forgives our faithlessness.

**People: God offers us the joy of salvation.
We are ready to learn God's intentions for us.**

Leader: We are open to the new and right spirit God offers.
We seek guidance for our daily living.

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: As Jesus offered up prayers and supplications to you, O God, we cry out to you. You know our losses and our fears. You understand our suffering and pain. We wish to see Jesus, to know the healing touch felt by so many. We want to hear a reassuring voice. We long to see a new day when evil is overcome and wrong cannot prevail. Lift us up and draw us to yourself as we worship in this hour. Equip us for our daily living as we seek to be true to your covenant with us. Amen.

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*HYMN OF PRAISE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

#259

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: The doubts and inattentions that mark our response to God summons us now to confess our sin. The promises of God which we have ignored draw us back to consider the covenant God offers. The obedience of Jesus can inspire in us a reverent submission to God's will. Let us seek forgiveness and reconciliation. Let us confess our sins in God's presence.

All: (Psalm 51:1-17 to be read *in unison* from the pew Bibles, pp. 520-521)

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: We are welcomed into God's redeeming presence. We are children of our Creator who loves us. We are brothers and sisters of Jesus, who was obedient to God and faithful to the law of love, even in the face of the cross. Through suffering, Christ became the source of eternal salvation for us, realized when we embrace the covenant in truth and faithfulness. The burden of our sin is lifted from us. New life is ours to enjoy. 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

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!

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Crisis Ministry

*HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

#84

(Children in grades 1-4 are dismissed for their Bible class during the hymn.**)**

Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Guiding his children, he leads us. Visiting the sick, he heals us. Dying on the cross, he saves us. Risen from the dead, he gives new life. Living with you, he prays for us.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord. Receive our sacrifice of praise. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory.

We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: *Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*

In the same way he took the cup, saying: *This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.*

These are the gifts of God for you, the people of God.

Communion of the People

HYMNS	<i>Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts</i>	#511
	<i>I Come with Joy</i>	#507

Prayer after Communion

Loving God, you graciously feed us, you have received these holy mysteries, with the bread of life and cup of eternal salvation. May we who have received this sacrament, be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth; we who have seen the greatness of your love see you face to face in your kingdom. For you have made us your own people by the death and resurrection of your Son, our Lord, and by the life-giving power of your Spirit. Amen.

*HYMN	<i>Lift High the Cross</i>	#371
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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION	<i>When I Was Sinkin' Down</i>	arr. Johnson
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* 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 John Crutcher is assisting with nursery care; next Sunday's nursery care will be assisted by Pam Johnson.

FLOWERS - 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 Cheryl and Manuel Ojeda. Next week's ushers are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: Isaiah Edmonds and Jessyca Hart with Jawhar Kimbrough, manager.

COMMUNION SERVERS for this morning are Sharon Blount, Rebecca Campbell, Sammie McGriff, and Janet Dickerson Stephens.



COFFEE HOUR - Host for the month of April is Valerie Smith. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Valerie (609-799-1817).



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION DURING LENT

✠ When you look in the mirror what do you see you most like? What do you most want to deplore?

✠ Which thing you have done would you most like to undo?

✠ What person or cause would you die for?

✠ If this were the last day of your life, what would you do?

Frederick Buechner says that answering these questions help us to see who we are and what we are becoming.

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, April 9, is Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-10; Mark 14:1-15:47.

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.



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 **foods for Easter, canned fruit, vegetables and juice** 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 26, the Property Acquisition Fund has accumulated **\$83,961.18** in cash, out of a total \$110,000 we have committed to raise.

ATTENDANCE at the service of March 26 was 119.



MANY THANKS – *The Anniversary Celebration Committee would like to thank the Witherspoon family for your support of the joint choir concert last Sunday. The performance was an outstanding example of the collaborative spirit the celebration year seeks to achieve. Your input and presence was evident and appreciated.*

Special edition note cards and a poster featuring the 250th Anniversary logo are available for sale beginning today. These top quality items are designed as lasting mementos of this special year in the life of our church(es). Copies are on display in the Fellowship Hall.



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



SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR – The renowned Soweto Gospel Choir – direct from South Africa – will be performing a **ONE NIGHT** engagement at McCarter Theatre **this 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.



CODE BLUE DARFUR – All are invited to the Princeton Jewish Center (435 Nassau Street) **this Wednesday, April 5**, at 8:00 p.m. to hear Dr. Jerry Ehrich, Cherry Hill pediatrician, talk about his experiences with Doctors without Borders in a displaced persons camp in Darfur. This talk is in preparation for a massive rally in support of aid for the people of Darfur scheduled for April 30 in Washington, DC.

- 400,000 have been killed or died
- 2.5 million people have been displaced from their homes
- The African Union's peacekeeping force needs money for training and equipment that the U.S. is able to provide.



BIBLE AND BAGELS – Come for bagels, coffee, and juice on **Sunday, April 23**, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and hear Dr. Peter Paris discuss

Contemporary Challenges Confronting the Churches

The so-called right-wing Christian movement as symbolized by the tele-evangelist media and led by both white and black leaders, is the impetus for the birth of many mega-churches and their so-called “prosperity gospel.” The economic triumphalism of those churches overshadows all prophetic voices that address the three great evils that Martin Luther King, Jr., identified: poverty, racism and militarism. These evils could be augmented today by the following: discrimination against women, homophobia, the left-behind children in our cities, the disproportionate number of blacks and other minorities in prison and on death row; the birth of a permanent underclass here in America. Many white and black churches have been swept up in the euphoria of this new synthesis of evangelical Christianity, nationalism, and the global market.

On **Sunday, April 30**, at 9:00 a.m., Dr. Elsie McKee will discuss

Congo Calling! Congo Calling!

Where is Congo these days? Not on our world events radar, certainly. But it is/should be on our church radar. The Democratic Republic of Congo – with which American Presbyterians have been associated since 1891 when an African-American and a Caucasian-American jointly began mission work in the Kasai province – is now counted as the most severe humanitarian crisis in the world. Hundreds of thousands, even millions more have died in Congo than in the tsunami or in Darfur. In fact, there have been more conflict-related deaths in Congo since

1998 than in any other conflict since World War II. And civilians – women and children – are a huge majority of the casualties. Come find out:

- More about the way American Presbyterians have served the church and fought for justice in Congo
 - More about the present horrific situation
 - More about what we can do – with some easy ways to participate
- Tuasakidila wa bungi!*



READINGS OVER COFFEE – The Princeton Public Library is hosting its monthly *Readings Over Coffee* **next Wednesday, April 12**, at 10:30 a.m. *Paul Robeson: An Icon* will be presented by Cecelia B. Hodges, including contemporary poetry and stories reflecting Robeson’s spirit and philosophy. This event is free and open to the public; no reservations are necessary.



FOOTPRINTS – WALK THE PATH OUT OF POVERTY – The Peacemaking and Social Justice Team invites you to share in the Crisis Ministry’s annual walk to raise consciousness and funds to help fight hunger and homelessness. The date is **Saturday, April 29**, beginning at 8:30 a.m. We will walk along the tow path between Princeton and Kingston – a lovely place – takes only a couple of hours, so you will have the rest of the day free. Come and walk or sponsor another walker. We will have sign up sheets and more news soon. Last year one of the Witherspoon youth was the first to complete the walk – he beat all the rest of us! Last year a Witherspoon family walked together, complete with baby stroller. Last year some of us displayed funny hats. How would you like to appear in the Witherspoon History of Footprints? Come be a part of the walk and join the story!