

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor
Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education
Ronald Smith, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director
Amy Shortt, Interim Organist
Lydie Dews, Men's Chorus Director

April 30, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Easter

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Have Your Way, Lord

Ron Smith
Soloist

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Beloved, we are God's children.
What we will be has not yet been revealed.

**People: We are here to remember Jesus Christ.
We want to be like the One who lived by love.**

Leader: Our faith strengthens us for each day's living.
God empowers our ministries of caring.

**People: We trust God whose children we are.
We look forward to what God will reveal to us.**

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: God of our ancestors, author of life, source of Easter good news, we are drawn together again by the mystery of life and death. We call on you, so far beyond our knowing, with a mixture of faith and doubt. Let your face shine on us as we put our trust in you. Draw together the fragments of our busy lives around the central core of love which you provide, that we might relate to one another as whole people. Grant us a fuller sense of what is right and good, and help us to live at our best. Amen.

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*HYMN OF PRAISE

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

#106

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: In his preaching, the disciple Peter reminded his listeners that no one can escape the collective guilt that allows innocent people to suffer. The mob action that sent Jesus to the cross was fed by fears and anger we are reluctant to claim. Yet we, too, reject the Holy One, by our neglect if not by deliberate intent. Peter invites us to repent and turn to God that our sins may be wiped away. Let us confess our sins in God's presence.

All: We are disturbed and distressed, O God, by the evil that surrounds us. It is hard to view many people we see as your children. Why should we confess our sins when there is so much evil beyond our influence? Yet we know we do not abide in your love. We sin by turning away from sisters and brothers who are also beloved by you, however they may differ from us. We seek the forgiveness you promise and the health you offer. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#466

**Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,
Christ's blood availed for me.**

**My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to all who repent and seek new life in Christ. The peace of God dwells in us when we honestly examine ourselves, exposing our wounds to Love's healing and our self-deceit to Love's correction. Beloved, we are accepted by God whose will for us is a joyous freedom in Christ Jesus. 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!

*HYMN

Thine Is the Glory

#122

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 24:36b-48

Page 91

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Sam Floyd
Guest Soloist

SERMON

Shalom Y'all

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

In the Garden

*DOXOLOGY (kids' red page)

#592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: We give with joy, gracious God, for you have been with us even when we were unfaithful. You have kept us in safety through times of grave distress. We can call on you in all times and places, in life and in death, knowing that your strength is available to sustain us. We give now that your church may be empowered in the proclamation of good news and the transformation of human life. Amen.

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

#339

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Searching

James Fowler
Soloist

* 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.)

USHERS for this morning's service are Beverly Owens and Adrienne Daniels Paris. Next week's ushers are Joyce Abbott and Melinda Velez.

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 Pam Johnson.



FLOWERS – Flowers for today's service were given by the members of *Trenton Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity* in memory of *Douglas Lett, Howard B. Waxwood, Jr. and our members who have passed to the chapter invisible.* 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 May 14.



COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for a Coffee Hour hosted by the Stewardship Committee in the Fellowship Hall following this morning's worship service. Host for the month of May is Barbara Brown. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Barbara (609-882-3788).

ATTENDANCE at the service of April 23 was 93.



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

This week's gospel takes place after Jesus encountered the disciples on the Road to Emmaus (vv. 13-35). The two Emmaus disciples ran to Jerusalem to inform the Eleven that Jesus was alive. While they were in conversation about Jesus' appearance to the Emmaus disciples, Jesus himself appeared to all of them and spoke. *Peace be with you* (v. 36b) are echoes of words he had spoken to the disciples days before in John 14 and 16. *Why are you frightened* (v. 38), and why do you doubt? These words echo those spoken to Joseph in Matthew 1, to both Mary and Zacharias in Luke 1, and to the shepherds in Luke 2. Luke's report supports the bodily resurrection of Christ: 1) his hands and feet bore evidence of having been crucified; 2) he could be touched; he was not a ghost or an apparition; 3) he ate with them. Finally, the passage concludes with Luke's version of the Great Commission, which actually extends into

verse 49. For additional accounts of this Great Commission, see Acts 1:6-8 and Matthew 28:16-20.

- ✚ What is the difference between a peacekeeper and a peacemaker?
- ✚ The “Eleven” believed after they saw and touched Christ. What is the basis of the faith of the multitude of today’s Christians?
- ✚ How important is it to your faith whether Jesus’ resurrected body was “real” or a “ghost?”

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, May 7, is Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18.

THANK YOU! *Dear Witherspoon Family, Thank you for your expressions of sympathy during the recent passing of my Great Aunt. My family and I were comforted by your prayers, cards, and words of support. Please accept our sincere appreciation for the love we feel extended to us at this time. The Hawes Family*



CHURCH CALENDAR – A copy of the WSPC calendar for May is inserted in this bulletin. Please review it and contact the Church Office with any additions or corrections **by this Wednesday, May 3**. The updated calendar will be posted in the rear hallway.

DOLLAR\$&CENTS **COUNTERS FOR MAY** are Adrienne Daniels Paris (Team Leader), Vicki Meisel, Maria Potts, and Florence Sharpless. Counters for the Deacon’s Benevolence Offering are Alyce Bush, Curtis Johnson and Sam McGriff.



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.



PROPERTY ACQUISITION FUND UPDATE

As of April 23, the Property Acquisition Fund has accumulated **\$83,961.18** in cash, out of a total \$110,000 we have committed to raise.

NEW VOLUNTEER POSSIBILITIES **THE USHER BOARD** needs four additional ushers. Anyone who is willing to usher three to four times a year or would like more information should contact Joan Tomlin (609-637-9646 or jotomlin@msn.com).



TUESDAY PRAYER GROUP will meet **this Tuesday, May 2**, at Connie Campbell's home (105 Leigh Avenue). All are welcome to join them at 9:30 a.m. They meet the first Tuesday of each month.



VESPER SERVICE – Children and youth from Witherspoon and Nassau churches will join for a Vesper Service **TODAY** at 4:00 p.m.; the service will be held at Nassau Presbyterian Church as part of our ongoing celebration of 250 years of Presbyterian presence in Princeton. Speak to Benjamin Colbert or Beverly Owens for more information.

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.



STILL A FEW PURSES LEFT! – Several women members and friends at Witherspoon and Nassau Churches have been volunteering for several years with a program called Mercer Project TEACH (Teen Education and Child Health). It is an alternative education and parenting program for

pregnant and parenting teens. All their sewing machines are donated, and we are currently accepting donations for several new sewing machines. They are used for a sewing class taught to these girls by the volunteers. If you are interested and would like to make a donation, join Adrienne Daniels Paris upstairs in the Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour **today**. You may also phone Barbara Holland Cooper if you would like additional information (609-924-6119). Our Outreach Committee is supporting our involvement as a form of church outreach and local mission. There are still a few handmade purses left that were made with reclaimed needlepoint embroidered squares. They are being offered as a thank you to friends who make a donation of \$35 toward the cost of new sewing machines. Each new machine costs approximately \$200. Thank you your generosity and support in this helpful program for our neighbors in Trenton.



SUMMER SPOONER DEADLINE – The deadline for the summer edition of *The Spooner* newsletter is **Sunday, May 14**. Committee chairs and leaders of various church groups, as well as other individuals with news of special interest, are encouraged to submit articles to share with our readers.



FOOD DONATIONS FOR CRISIS MINISTRY – The Deacons are collecting **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.



BIRTHDAY OFFERING AND LUNCHEON – Presbyterian Women of Nassau Presbyterian Church invite all Witherspoon women to the Birthday Offering Worship Service in Niles Chapel, Nassau Church, **next Monday, May 8**, at 12:00 noon. A luncheon will follow in the Assembly Room. The Birthday Offering will be received and Joyce MacKichan Walker will lead a fun, fellowship building program. Please bring a salad to share; drop off the salad in the Assembly Room by 11:45 a.m. Bus service from the Mountain Avenue parking lot to Nassau Church will depart at 11:30 a.m. For more information, you may contact Shuang Huang (609-683-0385).



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF PRINCETON invite all women to join them **this Friday, May 5**, at 11:45 a.m. for their *May Friendship Day* at All Saints Episcopal Church. They will celebrate the fellowship of the least calling. A buffet lunch will be provided. For more information, please call Connie Campbell (609-924-5267).



KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY was founded in 1911 on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. The alpha, or first chapter, was founded by eleven African-American undergraduate students “to unite college men of culture, patriotism and honor in a bond of fraternity.” The fundamental purpose of Kappa Alpha Psi is achievement in every field of human endeavor – in science, in the arts, in religion and in service to mankind. Upon graduation the members are expected to join an alumni chapter. The Trenton Alumni Chapter was chartered in 1949 with two members of Witherspoon among the charter members: Jim Floyd and Howard B. Waxwood, Jr. In addition to many service projects, including the Guide Right Program for Youth, chapter members “visit” area churches. Members of Trenton Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity have joined Witherspoon today to worship with the congregation.