

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
Jaime Escarpeta, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director
Amy Shortt, Interim Organist

May 14, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Come Here, Jesus

Carter

**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Beloved, we are called to love as God loves us.

We are to love one another as sisters and brothers.

People: Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

We seek to let God's love be perfected in us.

Leader: Remember that you have been baptized.

God claims you and has high expectations of you.

People: Christ is the vine; we are the branches.

We will bear fruit when we abide in the vine.

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: Open our senses to your direction, amazing God, so we may be alert to opportunities you give us. Fill us with good news to share with those who seek meaning for their lives. We are here because we need the good news ourselves. There is much in life that we do not understand. We seek to know your Word and to be led by it. Recall us to the vows of our baptism, reconfirming in us the covenant promises that link us to you and to one another. As we meet you here, our hearts are lifted up in praise. May our worship glorify your name and be pleasing to you. Amen.

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*HYMN OF PRAISE

Come, Ye Thankful People Come

#551

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Sense the love of God that seeks to live in us. Remember the times you have felt connected to the true vine, Jesus Christ. Listen again to the promise and challenge: If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish and it will be done for you...bear much fruit and become my disciples. Let us confess our sins in God's presence.

All: O God, we have ignored our origin in you and denied your rule over the nations. We have pursued illusions of self-interest rather than abiding in your love. We are afraid to love those who differ from us or who have the power to harm us. We hesitate to take the risks of caring for fear that we may be hurt. Discipleship seems too demanding. O God, release us from our fears and failures to trust your love and live with bold generosity. 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: There is good news for all who sincerely repent and seek a living, growing relationship with God. Those who are open to the gift of God's love are blessed with the capacity to extend love to others and thus experience the depth and riches of life that God intends for us. When we love one another, God's love is perfected in us. Believe the good news of the Gospel;

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

*GLORIA PATRI (kids' pink page)

#579

BAPTISM OF MAYA ELIZABETH FERGUSON

*HYMN

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

#498

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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!

TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS AND ALL WOMEN

Kalyet Blackwood-Chirchir

*HYMN

Faith of Our Mothers

Insert

DISTRIBUTION OF MEMENTOS

Junior Ushers

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 15:1-8

Page 109

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sing Hosanna

Young Voices
of Faith

SERMON

Hanging on for Dear Life

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

All: We give, gracious God, because we are grateful. Your love has sustained us through many trials and temptations. We are thankful for those who have guided our attempts to understand the scriptures. Your loving judgment has provided the pruning our lives require in order to bear fruit. We give in order to extend to others the blessings we have received and to continue the ministry we need as we seek to abide together in your love. Amen.

*HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

#538

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Christ, We Do All Adore Thee

Dubois

* 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 Fran Allison is assisting with nursery care; next Sunday's nursery care will be assisted by John Crutcher.



FLOWERS – *Flowers on the pulpit today are given in honor and remembrance of our loving mother, **Geneva Bolden**, never forgotten, always in our hearts, we love and miss you deeply. **Lynda and Leroy*** 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 21.

USHERS for this morning's service are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: Kaylin Blount and Joshua McGriff with David McGriff, manager. Next week's ushers are Robert Ellis and Curtis Johnson.



COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for a Coffee Hour 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 May 7 was 106.



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK – JOHN 15:1-8

Like the Good Shepherd, the vine and the branches are an agricultural image. In biblical times, many people were familiar with farms and vineyards.

- † What images from modern life do you think Jesus might use to illustrate how we belong to him?
- † What evidence do we as families or as a church give that we are branches of Jesus' vine?
- † What good works do you most want your church to produce abundantly?
- † How can you help make that happen?
- † Name some of the ways your family, school, work and church keep their "branches" alive and well?

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, May 21, is Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.



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).



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 May 7, the Property Acquisition Fund has accumulated **\$83,961.18** in cash, out of a total \$110,000 we have committed to raise.



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.



CASUAL SUNDAY – Next Sunday, May 21, is *Casual Sunday*. Casual clothes and sneakers are allowed (and encouraged) in church.



NEW MEMBERS CLASS – Those who want to become members of, affiliate with, or learn more about Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church are invited to a *New Members Class* at the manse (453 Walnut Lane) **this Friday, May 19**, at 7:00 p.m. Pizza will be provided for those who confirm their plans to attend. Contact Rev. Burrows for details (609-924-1666 or mburr45@verizon.net).



MEN'S BREAKFAST – Another in the series of breakfast meetings with the men of Witherspoon and Nassau Churches will be held **this Friday, May 19**. A panel discussion about the challenges and opportunities associated with Affordable Housing in Princeton will be led by Jim Floyd, Tad Vial and Jim Duncan. Open dialogue and discussion will follow. The meeting will take place in the Assembly Room at Nassau Church at 7:30 a.m. A free will offering will be taken. Let Ben Colbert know if you plan to attend.

WOMEN'S RETREAT – All women are invited to participate in another anniversary activity when women from Witherspoon and Nassau Churches gather at Kenbrook Retreat Center in Lebanon, PA, for a retreat **June 9-11**. Dr. Jacqueline Lapsley, associate professor of Old Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary, will lead the weekend's discussions on *Biblical Women: Hearing a Word from God to Us*. **Deadline to register is next Sunday, May 21.** Contact Connie Campbell (609-924-5267) for details.

**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**



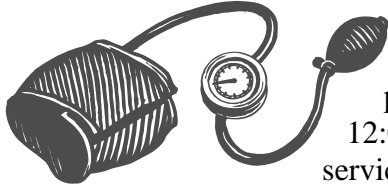
REAL MEN MAKE PANCAKES! The men of Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church invite the entire congregation for a pancake breakfast on **Sunday, May 28**, from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. The breakfast will showcase the unique culinary skills of the men in the congregation. Men interested in participating are asked to contact Eugene Marsh or Curtis Johnson. Please RSVP to the church office (609-924-1666 or witerspoon@verizon.net) if you plan to join the men for breakfast so they will know how to plan.



SUMMER SPOONER DEADLINE – **TODAY** is the deadline for the summer edition of *The Spooner* newsletter. 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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Please save **July 17-21** for Vacation Bible School. Our theme this year will be *Under Construction* and will feature our connection to Habitat for Humanity. Children will learn how Scripture teaches us to care, share and reach out to our neighbors. More information will be forthcoming. If you are willing to help, please contact Louise Johnson (609-497-7912).



BLOOD PRESSURE SUNDAY – Healthcare professionals from Princeton HealthCare System will provide blood pressure checks **next Sunday, May 21**, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Following the worship service, Rogelio Pine, M.D., will discuss the importance of managing your blood pressure and how to avoid illnesses associated with high blood pressure. This event is free. Flyers are available in the Narthex.