

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor
Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education
Jaime Escarpeta, Lector
Briallen Hopper, Pianist

Beverly Owens, Music Director
Amy Shortt, Interim Organist
Quartet: Benjamin Colbert, Bernadine Hines,
Sammie McGriff, Elizabeth Zingg

May 28, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus

Helen Lemmel

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are together today because Christ has claimed us.
We are called to be the body of Christ in today's world.
**People: We are not here just for ourselves, for our own needs.
We are drawn together by a larger purpose.**
Leader: We have been called by Christ for a mission.
The gathered community is sent out into the world.
**People: We are here to be equipped for ministry.
We have been chosen as apostles of good news.**
All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: Watch over us, holy God, as we take time to pray and to meditate on the continuing impact of Easter on our lives. Jesus Christ has become for us the measure of life. He presents to us your gift of love and eternal life. We are a resurrection people no longer bound by fear of death but freed to become witnesses to the light. Nourish us to become like trees, planted beside streams of water, that flourish and bear much fruit because of your constant attention and abundant provision for our needs. Be known to us here in this hour. Amen.

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*HYMN OF PRAISE

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

#143

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Each of us is allotted a ministry only we can carry out. When we abandon this trust and turn aside to pursue our own limited agendas, who will share the story only we can tell? Who will testify to the God who gives us life through Jesus Christ? Let us confess our sins in God's presence.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we pour out our Prayer of Confession. We have been called together into the church to live the resurrection faith, to embody Easter and touch lives as Jesus did. We have not done this well. Our vision has been narrow and limited. Our testimony has been timid and self-protective. We listen to the wrong advisors and complain when things do not go our way. Forgive our limited commitment and low expectations that deny the Body of Christ as the strong force for good that we are meant to be. Help us rediscover the delight and joy of full commitment. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#417

**Laud and honor to the Father,
Laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit,
Ever three and ever one;
One in might and one in glory
While unending ages run.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God hears prayer and forgives. No longer are we like chaff that the wind drives away. We are not numbered among the wicked who have no place in the congregation of the righteous. As forgiven and forgiving sinners, let us embrace our chosenness and live up to our calling. 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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A PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

“REMEMBER”*

Leader: Remember, Lord, the fallen
Who died in fields of war,
In flaming clouds, in screaming crowds,
On streets that are no more.

**People: That we today might waken
And greet this day in peace
With grateful prayer for those who bear
The storms that never cease.**

Leader: Remember friends and strangers,
And those forgotten now,
Whose names are known to you alone,
Before whose name we bow

**People: And ask that you surround them
With mercies endless light
That they may live, and we forgive
The foe they went to fight.**

Leader: Remember, Lord the living,
Who bear the pain of loss --
A death she died who stood beside
Her Son upon the cross.

**People: Remember all your children
The dead and those who weep,
And make us one beneath the sun
Where love will never sleep.**

Leader: Merciful God, as we remember these, your servants, remembering with gratitude their courage and their strength, we hold before you those who mourn them. Look upon your bereaved servants with your mercy. As this day brings them memories of those they have lost awhile, may it also bring your consolation and the assurance that their loved ones are alive now and forever in your living presence. Amen.

**Remember* written by Genevieve Glen, OSB; 2005, Abbey of St. Walburga, Virginia Dale, CO

*HYMN *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* #564

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 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* #363

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 17:6-19 Page 111

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC *I Surrender All* W. S. Weedon
J. W. Van Deventer

SERMON *You Want Me to Do WHAT?* 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

I Know Whom I Have Believed

D. W. Whittle
J. McGranahan

*DOXOLOGY (kids' red page)

#592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Here, O God, is some of the abundance you have allowed us to manage for you while we are on this earth. May it be enough to draw us closer to you and to all whom we seek to help. May our hearts follow our treasure into growing devotion to your truth and expanded commitment to the unity in love that Jesus sought for all your children. Bless this offering, and increase our joy in giving. Amen.

*HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns

#151

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Peace unto You

Valerie Clayton

* 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 Elizabeth Ferguson.

USHERS for this morning's service are Chester Holland and Eugenia Moore. Next week's ushers are Christo Claassens and Gerald Delk.



FLOWERS – Flowers to today's service were given by *Eugene Marsh* in honor of the *men and women who have served in the Armed Forces*. 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 June 25.



COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for a Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall following this morning's worship service. Host for the month of June is Shirley Satterfield. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Shirley (609-924-2010).



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK – JOHN 17:6-19

“Are ye able?” The old hymn writer had a different text in mind when *Are Ye Able?* was written, but it is the hymn that comes to mind when I read the prayer that Jesus' prayed for his disciples. They knew who Jesus was (v. 8). They had God's word (v. 14). They were sent into the world that would not easily accept them (vv. 14, 18), with a word that comes from God.

- ✠ Are we willing to aspire to this level of commitment to Christ?
- ✠ How important is it to believe that Jesus is God-sent? (John 17:8)
- ✠ *I am not asking you to take them out of the world...* (John 17:15). What does this verse suggest about the role of God's people in the world?

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, June 4, is Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-35; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4-15.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT of Mercer Project TEACH. The generosity of Witherspoon members and friends has resulted in a donation of \$615 for this program. It will be put to good use, purchasing the additional sewing machines needed for this program. The Outreach Committee and the volunteers from both Witherspoon and Nassau Churches sincerely appreciate your support.



BARBARA AND JERRY COOPER sincerely thank all of the Witherspoon members and friends for their most warm and thoughtful send-off last week. We will greatly miss the physical closeness of our Witherspoon family, but feel comforted to know we go with so much of your love.



CALLING ALL PAINTERS! – This Saturday, June 3, a team of volunteers will paint the Fellowship Hall. The painting starts at 7:00 a.m. and will be completed by 12:00 noon. Don't miss the chance to use your skills and have fun too! Lunch will be provided. Contact Gerald Delk (609-275-1941-home, 609-319-0730-cell, or gkdelk@comcast.net) to join the team.



MID-YEAR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will immediately follow the service on **Sunday, June 25**. Everyone is urged to attend. ***Please note*** that committee chairs and group leaders should have their reports to the church office **by Sunday, June 11**, to allow adequate time to prepare mid-year reports for distribution. Your assistance is appreciated.



ATTENTION GRADUATES! If you are graduating from middle school, high school, college, graduate school, or seminary, please contact Shirley Satterfield, Vicki Meisel or Grace Kimbrough. We will honor all graduates on **Youth Sunday, June 25**.



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).



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.



A PEACEMAKING JOURNEY TO ISRAEL AND PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES, OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 12 – The purpose of this “exposure tour” is to educate and equip people to explore mission relationships and participate in peacemaking dialogues in the community regarding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. It is sponsored by Lawrenceville and Nassau Presbyterian Churches, the Presbytery of New Brunswick and Princeton Theological Seminary. Maximum trip

cost is \$2,700, including airfare; final trip cost will depend on fundraising. Participants will be selected based on need for a balanced group and willingness to continue the work in our area. Scholarships will be available. Interested persons may submit a one-page statement indicating interest and qualifications. More information is available at

www.ourmeetinghouse.org, or by contacting the Israel Peacemaking Trip Steering Committee (pcol98@comcast.net).



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



Summer Office Hours

FROM THE SECRETARY – My summer schedule will begin June 12; I will work primarily from home until school begins (September 6). Please **refer to the bulletin each week** (under “This Week at Witherspoon”) for the hours I plan to be available at my home office. You may leave messages at the church 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. I will check church e-mail daily (wITHERSPOON@VERIZON.NET). Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I appreciate your flexibility as we make necessary adjustments and will work with you.