

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor
Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education
Benjamin Colbert, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director
Amy Shortt, Interim Organist

June 11, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Trinity Sunday

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

I Was Glad

Wooten

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

People: We come before you to give you thanks and praise.

Leader: God of Abraham and of Sarah, of Joseph and of Mary.

People: We come before you to learn and to do your will.

Leader: God of Earth, Wind, Water, and Fire,

People: We come before you in wonder and in awe.

Leader: Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit

People: We worship and adore you.

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: Lord God, we bind unto ourselves today your holy and living reality. We invoke your presence in the way you have revealed yourself to us – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – Three in One and One in Three. We invoke you by the name you have given us – the strong name of the Trinity. We pray your power to hold and lead us, your eye to watch, your might to stay, your ear to hear, your wisdom to teach, your hand to guide, and your word to give us speech. Help us celebrate your love

and to proclaim your majesty, your glory, and your awe – both now and evermore. Amen.

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*HYMN OF PRAISE *All Creatures of Our God and King* #455

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Who has truly listened to the voice of God? Who among us is attentive to the heights and depths in which we are called to live? Who are we that God cares for us? Let us draw near in humility and faith, confessing the distractions that separate us from the mind of God.

All: God of Wisdom, our choices often deny you. Too often we drink from the waters of instant gratification when you offer springs of living water from the depths of your love. We confess that we have not put your mission and ministry first – nor have we lived up to the crown of glory and honor you offer us. Today, recall us to awe and wonder in who you are and in the grandeur of your creation. Guide us in the ways of truth. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung): #139

**To Thee, great One in Three,
The highest praises be,
Hence evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see,
And to eternity love and adore.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: The glory of God is revealed anew to us in new birth. We are reborn when we pause to marvel at the gift of life, when we look beyond ourselves to gaze at God's marvelous creation. Before the vast mystery of time and space, we are amazed that God cares for us, forgives us, and entrusts to us the stewardship of the earth. 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 *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!* #138



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 Elizabeth Ferguson is assisting with nursery care.



FLOWERS – Flowers for today's service were given by *Charles and Alyce Bush* in honor of their **40th wedding anniversary**. 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.

USHERS for this morning's service are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: Kaylin Blount and Jessyca Hart with Martin Anim-Danso, manager. Next week's ushers are Kim and Terry McEwen.



COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for a Coffee Hour hosted by Charles and Alyce Bush in the Fellowship Hall following today's worship service. Host for the month of July is Curtis Johnson. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Curtis (732-422-1343).



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK – JOHN 3:1-17

This is a passage with two different textures, like two different fabrics. On the one hand Nicodemus represents an attitude that seeks sufficient proofs, historical and logical in order to arrive at a faith, which is safe and solid. On the other hand, Jesus insists on a life, given by God, which is uncontrollable and mysterious, like the whence and whither of the wind. The word for "night" in Greek refers to a kind of time, not a point or duration of time; and in verse 7, the conversation is enlarged into a sermon addressed, not to Nicodemus alone, but to the plural "you." In other words, we are dealing with a post-Easter sermon to the church – a message to all of us.

- ✠ With which attitude – Nicodemus' or Jesus' - would you compare the longing for "spirituality" in today's church and surrounding culture?
- ✠ In what ways does "succeeding religiously" miss the point of Jesus message and ministry?
- ✠ What makes you hesitate to respond to the call of Jesus? What stirs you to life?

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, June 18, is 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34.



THE 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 **today** 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 or Vicki Meisel. We will honor all graduates on **Youth Sunday, June 25**.



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, June 16**, 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).



PROPERTY ACQUISITION FUND UPDATE

As of June 4, 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.



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).



Summer Office Hours

FROM THE SECRETARY – My summer schedule will begin tomorrow; I will work primarily from home until 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.