

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Website: www.wITHERSPOONCHURCH.org

Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education
Brent Ferguson, Lector
Elizabeth Ferguson, Guest Preacher

Beverly Owens, Music Director
Amy Shortt, Interim Organist
Victor Richards, Flutist

August 6, 2006

10:00 a.m.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Larghetto

Donizetti

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Blessed be the God and Parent of our Savior Jesus Christ!
Thank God for every spiritual blessing.

**People: May the glory of God be known in this place!
May God's peace dwell in this and every land!**

Leader: Who are God's chosen ones?
Who shall stand in God's holy place?

**People: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
Those who are not false or deceitful.**

Leader: God speaks peace to those who are faithful.
Lift your head and your hearts to God.

**People: We have come to hear the word of truth.
We turn to God eager to receive salvation.**

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: We are seeking after you, loving God, for you are our refuge. Your power is at work within and among us, even when we are unaware. We want to respond as faithful friends of our Lord. Like Moses, we offer to you our best for the good of all. Use us, we pray, to accomplish in and through this church far more than we can ask or imagine.

All glory to you, amazing God, in this and every hour, forever and ever. Amen.

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*HYMN OF PRAISE

O Lord, Our God, How Excellent

#162

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: The psalmist said that all have gone astray; there is no one who does good – no, not one. Before we dismiss these claims as exaggeration, let us examine ourselves before God.

All: God of all times and places, we confess that we have wandered after false gods of this age. We have disobeyed your commandments, violated your covenant with us, and forsaken your ways. We have denied our need for you and mistreated those whom you have called us to love. We have become strangers and aliens, plagued by false values that squeeze life from our souls. Loving Parent, hear your penitent children, and let us come home, we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#263

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: We are no longer strangers and aliens but are citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone. We are the church, God's forgiven and forgiving people, becoming a temple in which God is pleased to dwell. Let us give thanks for God's pardon. 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

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#298

SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 3:1-12; 4:10-17 Pages 50-51

SPECIAL MUSIC *Andante K. V. 315* Mozart

SERMON *Who Me?* Elizabeth Ferguson

TITHES AND OFFERINGS *Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,
and put your trust in the Lord.*

OFFERTORY (The Ushers and Deacons will now come forward
to take up the offering for the mission and ministry of the church.)

*DOXOLOGY (kids' red page) #592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Receive our best, gracious God, as we offer ourselves along with these tokens of thanks. Use our gifts to reduce alienation and to build community. Be to us a watchful Parent, and teach us to live as sisters and brothers who find you in one another and respond in love to each other's needs. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Eucharistic Prayer

Leader: God in Christ breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves and divide us from one another. We are the body of Christ. Around this table, we enact our faith. The body broken is restored to wholeness; lifeblood poured out brings healing to our world. At this table receive God's peace made flesh. What we receive, we now share. We dream, O God, of community, but in waking hours we forget such hopes. Our dreams we call "alien," our sister and brother we call "stranger."

People: You call us by name. With arms outstretched as on a cross, you call us to yourself, and you name us your own people.

Leader: So with arms outstretched, we embrace new friends and forgotten dreams. The body broken and lifeblood poured transforms our fears, revives our visions.

People: Renew us, O God, with your Spirit, that we may receive this mystery of our body, embracing its manifold gifts and needs, shouting an "Amen" that resounds through our world.

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.*

Sharing the Bread and Cup

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

Prayer after Communion

Since, dear God, in this place, at this table, we have touched, we have tasted, and we have heard the signs of your love for us, grant that we may go away from this house filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and who share our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*HYMN	<i>Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing</i>	#538
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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	Traditional
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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 is on break for the summer. But Sunday school will resume on the second Sunday of September (September 10) with classes for all ages. Please plan to join us!

NURSERY CARE is provided for children 0-5 during worship (10:00). Today Elsie McKee 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 August 20.

USHERS for this morning's service are Maria Potts and Janet Dickerson Stephens. Next week's ushers are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: Kaylin Blount and William Edmonds with Brian Yuan, manager.

COMMUNION SERVERS for this morning are Alyce Bush, Lydie Dews, Patricia Fernandez-Kelly and Curtis Johnson.



COFFEE HOUR - Host for the month of August is Joyce Abbott. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Joyce (609-448-4511).

ATTENDANCE at the service of July 30 was 119.

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, August 13, is 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51.

DOLLAR\$&CENTS **COUNTERS FOR AUGUST** are Brenda Lee (Team Leader), Jaime Escarpeta and Elsie McKee. Counters for the Deacon's Benevolence Offering are Valerie Smith, Shirley Satterfield and Vicki Meisel.

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).



FOOD DONATIONS FOR CRISIS MINISTRY – The Deacons are collecting cereals, canned meat, fish, poultry and beans 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.



CALLING ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS! The Verse Speaking Choir will read the scripture at the next service in celebration of **250 Years of the Presbyterian Presence in Princeton** on **Sunday, September 24**, 11:00 a.m., at McCarter Theatre. We invite everyone interested to join us for this brief commitment. *We hope, especially, that youth and male members and friends will be among the volunteers.* Rehearsals will be Tuesdays, September 5, 12, and 19; and Thursdays, September 7, 14, and 21, at 6:30

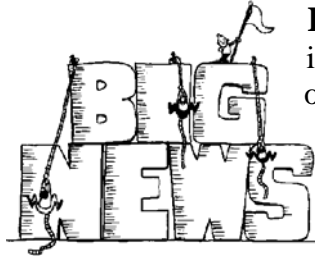
p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please phone Cecelia B. Hodges (609-452-2855) by Wednesday, August 30, to join. Thank you!



FALL SPOONER DEADLINE – The deadline for the fall edition of *The Spooner* newsletter is next Sunday, August 13. 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.



ELIZABETH FERGUSON was born and raised in San Diego. Before coming to seminary, she served at La Jolla Presbyterian Church for four years, working with their children and youth ministries. Elizabeth graduated with an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary in May 2005 and plans to graduate from Rutgers University with a Masters in Social Work next spring. In October, Elizabeth and her husband, Brent, will celebrate their five-year wedding anniversary; they are blessed with a little girl, Maya, who is 16 months old. Their family enjoys eating ice cream, going to the pool and public library, reading stories and taking naps!



KARA ROOT (former Director of Christian Education at WSPC) invites Witherspoon Church to celebrate in spirit with her as she is ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament today. Kara has accepted a call as Associate Pastor at Grace Trinity Community Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She writes, *Thank you Witherspoon community for your love and support through the ordination process!*