

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education
Walter Daniels, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director
Amy Shortt, Interim Organist
Cathy Neilley, Soprano

August 20, 2006

10:00 a.m.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Deep River

arr. Burleigh

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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: Give thanks to God at all times.

Recall with joy all that He has done and serve Him and Him alone.

People: The Lord our God brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Leader: He did great signs in our midst.

He protected us along all the way we went,

And among all the peoples through whom we passed.

People: He gave us food when we hungered and drink when we thirsted.

He listened to our cries and saved us

And brought us into a good land –

A land of milk and honey and riches beyond measure.

Leader: Serve the Lord God in sincerity and faithfulness.

Believe in Him and the one whom He has sent,

For our God is faithful and just,

And shows mercy to those who trust in His name.

People: The Lord our God brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: Most gracious and loving God – we have tasted your goodness in days gone by and it has satisfied us – but now with this new day we turn to you again for the bread of life that you have prepared for us and for the wine of the Spirit that you pour out for your people. Help us Lord, to empty ourselves of those things that hinder us from knowing the fullness of your love and fill us with those things that tend to make us all that you want us to be. We need your presence Lord. We need your anointing. Touch us, we pray, and make us whole. We ask it through Christ Jesus, your Son. Amen.

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*HYMN OF PRAISE

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

#482

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: There is much that is evil in our world today. There are many good things that are easily perverted. We live in an age where extravagance masquerades as progress and self-centered willfulness makes false claims to wisdom. We claim the authority of God in making our own authoritarian claims. Let us confess our sins in God's presence.

All: O God, we confess that we have lived so comfortably in the abundance of our times that we have made things our gods. We spend our days dreaming of (and working for) possessions that cannot satisfy. The pursuit of riches replaces the quest for faith and faithful relationships. We do not know you, God, and our relationship with others is superficial at best. Redeem us, we pray, from our self-destructive ways and restore us to your covenant community. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#426

**Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
In living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek
Thine erring children lost and lone.**

**O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord,
Until my very heart o'erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word,
Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: We have received God's continuing offer to humankind of a lasting covenantal relationship. God forgives and redeems the likes of us through Jesus Christ, the living bread, sent from heaven. Accept God's gift.

Accept yourself, and know that this moment can mark a new beginning in faithfulness. 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 *Take My Life* #391, vv. 1-4

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 6:56-69 Pages 98-99

SPECIAL MUSIC *The Lord's Prayer* Malotte

SERMON *Who Is in Charge?
God and Discipleship* 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: For the life that your word has brought into being, for the love that your heart has given, and for the food that your hand has provided – we give you thanks, O God. We ask that you receive our gifts as a sign of our commitment to you and we pray that they and we may honor you and serve you, both in this world and in the next. Amen.

*HYMN *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples* #434

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *O, Rest in the Lord* Mendelssohn

* Congregation stands

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 Elizabeth Ferguson is assisting with nursery care; next Sunday's nursery care will be assisted by Michelle Peal.

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 27.

USHERS for this morning's service are Vicki Meisel and Joan Tomlin. Next week's ushers are Robert Ellis and Curtis Johnson.

ATTENDANCE at the service of August 13 was 79.



COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for a Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall following this morning's worship service. Host for the month of August is Joyce Abbott. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Joyce (609-448-4511).

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, August 27, is 1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69.



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!



BIBLE AND BAGELS – Come for bagels, coffee, and juice on **Sunday, September 10**, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and hear Dr. Beverly Gaventa discuss **Questions about the New Testament: Things You Have Wondered about...** Please write down any questions you have about the New Testament and place them in the offering plate or e-mail them to Louise Johnson (louise.johnson@ptsem.edu) or the church office (witherspoon@verizon.net) by Sunday, September 3.



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).



CALLING ALL WOMEN! – The first general meeting for this year sponsored by Presbyterian Women at Nassau Presbyterian Church will be held in the Assembly Room on **Monday, September 18**, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Joyce MacKichan Walker will provide an overview of the Bible study theme for 2006-2007, *In the Beginning: Perspectives on Genesis*. Joyce is the author of Workshop for Leaders, a guide used by PC(USA) to help churches, presbyteries, and others introduce Bible study to groups. All women from Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church are invited. Coffee, tea, and refreshments will be provided. Bus service between Nassau Church and the Mountain Avenue parking lot will be available. The bus will leave the parking lot at 9:45 a.m. and bring attendees back to the parking lot at the conclusion of the meeting. You may contact Shuang Huang (609-683-0385) for more information.



AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTEREST BOOK GROUP will meet at 7:00 p.m. on **Monday, August 28**, at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Princeton Market Fair to discuss The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd. It is a wonderfully, moving and imaginative novel set in the period of the Civil Rights Movement. It relates the unrelenting courage of a young American girl searching for her mother while seeking to learn more about her own identity.

- **September 25** – Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights and Murder in the Jazz Age by Kevin Boyle

- **October 23** – Zadie Smith’s new novel, On Beauty, now available in paperback (This will replace Call Me by My Rightful Name which is no longer in print.)

Barbara Flythe has started listing books for January-October 2007. She welcomes suggestions and new ways to explore and enrich the thinking and discussions of the book group. If you have recommendations (paperback only), please contact Barbara Flythe (732-274-9435 or seavy33@aol.com).



PRAYERS FOR PEACE – Concerned Friends (Quakers) for Peace will be gathering every Wednesday for the next month for silent prayers for peace at Tiger Park in Palmer Square in Princeton from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Please share this information with interested individuals.



PROPERTY ACQUISITION UPDATE

(as of June 30, 2006)

Total collection for property acquisition*	\$143,359.43
Total expenses*	<u>84,313.17</u>
Balance	\$59,081.26

*2004 to present