

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education
Janet Dickerson Stephens, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director
Amy Shortt, Interim Organist
J. Paul Stephens, Bass Soloist

September 3, 2006

10:00 a.m.

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Lead Me, Guide Me

Akers

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CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 121)

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: I lift up my eyes unto the hills;
From where is my help to come?

**People: My help comes from the Lord,
The maker of heaven and earth.**

Leader: He will not let your foot slip --
He who watches over you will not slumber nor sleep.

**People: The Lord will keep you from all harm --
He will watch over your life.**

Leader: The Lord will watch over your coming in and your going out
Both now and forevermore.

People: Blessed be the name of the Lord, our God.

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: Almighty and Everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray. You constantly give more than either we desire or deserve. Pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy. Forgive us those things of which our conscience is afraid. Give us those good things, which we are not worthy to ask, except through the

merits and mediation of Christ Jesus, your Son – he whom you sent to take our nature upon himself and to be for us sign and Savior. Grant, we pray, that by the power of your Spirit, Christ may be born within us today – to the end that our worship and our ministry may be pleasing to you and helpful to all your people. We ask it in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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*HYMN OF PRAISE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

#259

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: How easily we notice the sins of others, finding ways to criticize what they do or do not do. How much harder it is to believe that we are sinners needing to repent of habits that separate us from God and set us against neighbors who are different from us. Let us seek forgiveness. Let us confess our sins in God's presence.

Leader: Wonderful God – your will and desire for us is gracious and good and we thank you for it. We praise you for your guidance and the care it shows.

----- (*silent prayer*) -----

Leader: Lord God – you know our desire is to do that which is right, yet often we do that which is wrong.

People: We ignore your laws and break your commandments. We hurt ourselves and others. Forgive us and help us in our brokenness.

----- (*silent prayer*) -----

Leader: Loving God – you know our desire is to do that which is right, yet often we do that which is wrong.

People: Often our rules and our creeds make us judgmental instead of helping us care for others. Forgive us and help us in our brokenness.

----- (*silent prayer*) -----

Leader: Forgiving God – help us to see with your eyes and to act by your Spirit.

People: Touch us and make us whole. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#372

**Lord, I want to be a Christian
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian
In-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian
In-a my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus**

**In-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus
In-a my heart.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ – God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor requite us according to iniquities – rather the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who love him. Be comforted and glad, therefore, for God’s forgiving love is with you. If you would have the joy God intends for you, be you likewise forgiving. And come and praise the Lord. 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 *Fairest Lord Jesus* #306

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 Page 42

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC *I'll Walk with God* Brodzsky

SERMON *Majoring in Minors* Rev. Muriel Burrows

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: Loving and giving God – accept these offerings from our hands and the offerings we make to you now from our hearts. Sanctify them and

us in your service so that all we say and do may be more than words and rituals. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Invitation

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south and sit at table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

People: **It is meet and right so to do.**

Holy God...Creator of heaven and earth, with joy we praise you and give thanks to your name. You formed the universe in your wisdom, and created all things by your power. You set us in families on the earth to live with you in faith. We praise you for good gifts of bread and wine, and for the table you spread in the world as a sign of your love for all people in Christ. Great and wonderful are your works, Lord God almighty. Your ways are just and true. Therefore, we lift our hearts in joyful praise, joining our voices with choirs of angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest.

We praise you, most holy God, for sending your only Son to live among us, sharing our joy and sorrow. He told your story, healed the sick, and was a friend of sinners. Obeying you, he took up his cross and died that we might live. We praise you that he overcame death and is risen to rule the world. He is still the friend of sinners. We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us, and believe that when he comes in glory, we will celebrate victory with him. Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we break bread and share one cup giving thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ. As you raised our Lord from death and call us with him from death to life, we give ourselves to you to live for him in joy and grateful praise. Christ is the bread of life:

ATTENDANCE at the service of August 27 was 65.

USHERS for this morning's service are James Mack and Michele Minter. Next week's ushers are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: William Edmonds and Brian Yuan with Kalyet Blackwood-Chirchir, manager.

COMMUNION SERVERS for this morning are Joyce Abbott, Barbara Brown, Pauline Brown and Christo Claassens.



COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for a Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall following this morning's worship service hosted by the Usher Board. Host for the month of September is Barbara Brown. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Barbara (609-882-3788).



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK: MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

- ✚ The Pharisees questioned Jesus, with some smugness, about how his disciples were keeping the law. *What problems did Jesus have with all the washing and purifying, since it was, after all, part of the law? What is your attitude toward people who interpret laws differently than you do?*
- ✚ Jesus says people are not defiled by exterior actions (“nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person”) but rather by what is inside their hearts (“evils come from within and they defile”). *Where is your own heart, and how does it come out in your own actions?*
- ✚ How do you understand Revelation 14:4 that pictures heaven to include 144,000 males “who have not defiled themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure?”
- ✚ Who are you tempted to exclude as impure and unclean?
- ✚ How do we embrace both holiness and compassion, instead of choosing one or the other?
- ✚ What does the hierarchy or stratification of impurity look like in your community?
- ✚ Watch the film *An Uncommon Kindness* (2003) about the Flemish priest Damien de Veuster, who ministered to the abandoned lepers on the Hawaiian island of Molokai.

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, September 10, is Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37.

DOLLAR\$&CENTS **COUNTERS FOR SEPTEMBER** are Joyce Abbott (Team Leader), Joan Tomlin and Norma Wilson. Counters for the Deacon's Benevolence Offering are Barbara Brown, Florence Sharpless and Sam McGriff.

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 September 10.



DEEPEST SYMPATHY – The Witherspoon community expresses its deepest sympathy to the family of **Mary Toney** upon her passing last Tuesday. Her service will take place at WSPC **this Wednesday, September 6**; the viewing begins at 9:00 a.m. and the funeral will take place at 11:00. The repast will immediately follow the funeral.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! – Volunteers are needed to assist **Connie Campbell** with transportation to and from her cancer treatments at Princeton Hospital starting next week and continuing for approximately seven weeks. Those who can help should contact Connie (609-924-5267) or call Deacon Michelle Peal (908-369-4753).



A BIG THANK YOU goes to Gerald Delk who painted the Meeting Room this week.



MANY THANKS – Witherspoon Presbyterian Women thank members and friends of Witherspoon who donated backpacks and school supplies for the children of Princeton Young Achievers. Twelve (12) backpacks were filled with school supplies and given to Dr. Rebecca Johnson, Director, to be distributed among the three PYA sites.



VERSE SPEAKING! VERSE SPEAKING! Thanks to all who have volunteered for the September 24th reading of Psalm 150 at the 250th Celebration service at McCarter Theatre. **PLEASE** bring your script to the initial rehearsal **this Tuesday, September 5**, and arrive early enough to **BEGIN** rehearsal at 6:30. Call Cecelia Hodges (609-452-2855) for further information.



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) **today**.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK WEEK – Our Habitat project is in need of crew chiefs. Ideally a crew chief is familiar with the building process; however, even more important is the crew chief's willingness to work

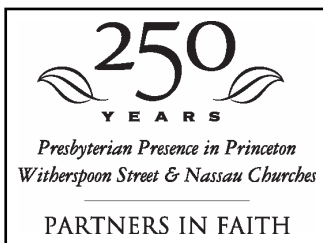
with the Habitat Construction Manager and then lead/direct and motivate the volunteers. Those interested must commit one Saturday per month to the project. To participate, please contact Meg Coghlan (meg_coghlan@yahoo.com or 609-651-2945).



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.



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.



PICTURES NEEDED! – Have you taken pictures during any 250th Celebration event/activity and are you willing to share them? A PowerPoint presentation is being prepared. Please send digital pictures to diana@nassauchurch.org. Other pictures can also be used. Put them in an envelope marked with your name, telephone number and the event/activity pictured; leave them in the church office by next Monday,

September 11. These pictures will be returned.



DISCIPLE: BIBLE STUDY FOR TRANSFORMATION –

Nassau Church invites WSPC members and friends to join them for a Disciple Bible study group from September 2006 through mid-May 2007. It is a structured, intensive 32-week study of Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts. Daily Bible reading and journaling are an important part of the study. Participants explore questions designed to stimulate group discussion at weekly meetings. A study manual (\$40) and a recommended study Bible (available for purchase at a discounted price) are needed. (Scholarships based on need are available.)

Two study groups are scheduled:

- ✠ Monday evenings, beginning **September 11**, 7:15-9:15 p.m., facilitated by Kevin Dean and Carol Wehrheim
- ✠ Thursday mornings, beginning **September 14**, 9:30-11:30 a.m., facilitated by Joyce MacKichan.

One overnight retreat during Lent will be part of this experience. Time is taken off for holidays. A nursery will be provided to assist those with children. Flyers are available in the Narthex. Or you may contact Joyce MacKichan (609-924-0103 or joyce@nassauchurch.org) for more information.



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 Church are invited. Refreshments will be provided. Bus service between Nassau 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 after the meeting. Contact Shuang Huang (609-683-0385) for details.