

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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E-mail: witerspoon@verizon.net

Website: www.witerspoonchurch.org

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
Melissa Moore, Cellist

September 10, 2006

10:00 a.m.

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

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CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 146)

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: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob.

People: Blessed are those whose hope is in the Lord our God.

Leader: He who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them keeps faith forever.

People: He executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

Leader: The Lord sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind.

People: Our God lifts up those who are bowed down.

Leader: He watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow.

People: The Lord loves the righteous, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

Leader: The Lord will reign forever. Praise be to the Lord!

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: Loving God – on this new day we give you thanks for being able to gather in this place to worship you and to call on your name. We praise you for the fellowship you have made us part of, for the Spirit that you have poured out richly upon us, for the living Christ who walks with us on our path, and for the hope that you have given us through his life, his death, and his resurrection. Bless, we pray, this

time of worship that it may put a mark upon our hearts and result in greater glory and praise being given to you and greater love, joy, and peace in our world. We ask it in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

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*HYMN OF PRAISE

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

#466

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: The Holy One – who opens eyes and ears, makes the mute speak, and delivers the tormented from demons within – invites us to seek the healing we need. God reigns in spite of us, but longs for our participation in faith-filled ministries. Let us confess our estrangement from the One who offers us true freedom. Let us confess our sins in God’s presence.

All: O God, we confess that our good intentions have gone astray. We favor the people who are like us and honor those we deem to be important. We dishonor the poor, write off those with whom we disagree, excuse our self-serving behavior. It is much easier to give advice than to do good. We would rather point fingers at others who are unfair than to give up our own advantages. O God, we plead for your forgiveness and for a depth of faith that will make a difference in us and in our world. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#482

**Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the amen sound from His people again;
Gladly for aye we adore Him.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: When we show mercy, we are able to accept God’s mercy which triumphs over judgment. God can turn our waywardness upside down and set us on the path of true community with those whom we have disdained or ignored. God opens our minds and hearts to hear and understand those who need our help. God empowers our response. 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!

PUBLIC WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS (see insert)

*HYMN *Amazing Grace* #280

SCRIPTURE LESSON James 2:1-10, 14-17 Pages 229-230
Mark 7:24-37 Pages 42-43

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Students in grades 1-12 are dismissed for their Bible classes.**)**

SPECIAL MUSIC *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* Schuster

SERMON *Inside Out and Outside In* 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: Gracious God – we praise and adore you. We ask of you as we give ourselves to you – as we make now our spiritual sacrifice – only that you would help us make all our actions as holy and as healing as yours – that you would help us live our faith more perfectly – and so bring to you honor and glory. Amen.

*HYMN *Be Thou My Vision* #339

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION *Couante* Bach

* 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.

ATTENDANCE at the service of September 3 was 75.



A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS TODAY FOR ALL AGE GROUPS! Adults will meet on their own schedule each month in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. All other Sunday school classes for students in grades 1-12 begin immediately after the children's message in morning worship. (A nursery is available for children in preschool and kindergarten.)

NURSERY CARE is provided for children 0-5 beginning at 9:45 a.m. Today and next Sunday Lucill Van Zyl is assisting with nursery care.

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 17.

USHERS for this morning's service are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: William Edmonds and Brian Yuan with Jasmine McEwen, manager. Next week's ushers are Cheryl and Manuel Ojeda.



COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for a Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall following this morning's worship service. 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 7:24-37 and James 2:1-10, 14-17

- ✠ Do you think this miracle was performed simply to provide a cure for the deaf mute, or could it have been performed to teach a lesson? What could the people of Israel, the church today or you personally learn from it?
- ✠ If the message of this miracle went beyond physical hearing, what could "Ephphatha, be opened!" mean to the Israelites? What could it mean to you?
- ✠ What do our actions say about our faith? Have we unintentionally said: "Be warmed; be filled; be gone?" – limiting words of welcome to the fellowship hall or the basement? Are we cuddled with the moneyed, while the poorest of the poor feel welcome

only on the church steps in the middle of the night? What do our actions say about our faith? The question raised in James 2:1 is timeless: “Do we, with our acts of favoritism, really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?”

✠ Faith and Works at Ground Zero. Tomorrow morning, the nation will observe the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. What have we learned? What lessons did the nation, the church, or the community learn about faith and action? This would be a good time to connect the many faith stories that emerged from the rubble with daily life.

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, September 17, is Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38.



MANY THANKS – We thank you for the prayers, telephone calls and other expressions of concern sent our way during Tony’s recent illness. We are happy to say that he is on the road back to good health. We have appreciated the support and friendship extended to us by the WSPC congregation. God bless this beloved community. Sincerely, Uneeda and Tony Frazier



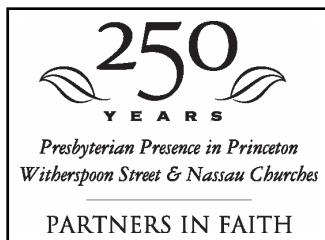
YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! – Volunteers are needed to assist **Connie Campbell** with transportation to and from her cancer treatments at Princeton Hospital starting next week and continuing for approximately seven weeks. Those who can help should contact Connie (609-924-5267) or call Deacon Michelle Peal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



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK WEEK – Our Habitat for Humanity project needs your help. To participate, please contact Meg Coghlan (609-651-2945 or meg_coghlan@yahoo.com).



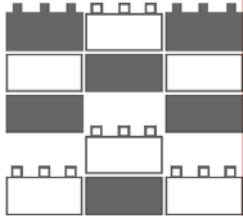
FOOD DONATIONS FOR CRISIS MINISTRY – The Deacons are collecting cereals, canned meat, fish, poultry and beans for the Crisis Ministry. *****NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE.***** Other nourishing food will also be accepted. Checks made payable to the Crisis Ministry are always welcome and may be placed in the offering 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.



PICTURES NEEDED! – Have you taken pictures during any 250th Celebration event/activity? 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 tomorrow**. These pictures

will be returned.

ANNIVERSARY LECTURE AT 2:00 P.M. NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, AT PRINCETON PUBLIC LIBRARY – Dr. Valerie Smith, Woodrow Wilson Professor of Literature and Director of the Program in African-American Studies at Princeton University, will present *Princeton and the Civil Rights Movement*. This lecture will examine the years from the 1940s through the 1960s to see how the community of Princeton and its churches, including Presbyterians, were or were not involved in the struggle to end racial discrimination.



DIALOGUE ABOUT RACE RELATIONS – The Princeton YWCA will host a sustained dialogue on race relations in New Jersey. Moderated by Princeton Human Services, these study circles will meet in the Bramwell House Living Room from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. on the following **Tuesdays**: September 12, 26, October 10, 24, November 14, 28. Both curriculum and video will guide conversations about racial issues that affect residents of the greater Princeton area. There is no fee. Coffee and refreshments will be provided. For details, please call 609-497-2100, x 307.



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.

DISCIPLE **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.



PREPARING FOR COLLEGE - The West Windsor-Plainsboro African-American Parents Support Group is sponsoring its Fifth Annual College Admissions Seminar on **Saturday, September 30**, from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. at the West Windsor Library. This seminar, conducted by Colgate University admissions officers, is designed for high school students and their parents. For more information, contact Barbara Ingram-Edmonds (bjiedmonds@aol.com, 609-750-7170 or 917-693-2940).



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