

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education

David Shedden, Seminary Intern

Janet Dickerson Stephens, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director

Amy Shortt, Interim Organist

Cecelia B. Hodges, Verse Speaking Choir Director

September 17, 2006

10:00 a.m.

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Spirit of the Living God

Iverson

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CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 119:105-112)

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

People: And also with you.

Leader: God's word is a lamp to guide us.

People: God's word is a light for our path.

Leader: God calls us to walk by his word.

By it life is given to us.

**People: God's ordinances and teachings are our heritage,
an eternal possession by which the wise are guided.**

Leader: When we are filled by God's Spirit
they become the joy of our hearts.

**People: God calls us to hear and to do all that he has commanded.
Blessed be the name of our God.**

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF APPROACH

All: God of grace and God of glory – we gather today as your people to worship you and to be strengthened by your wisdom and your power. We gather in the name of your Son, Christ Jesus, your Living Word. We gather to thank you that your ways are greater than our ways and that your purpose for creation is loving and life-giving. Help us, we

pray, to walk in the way of life. Be present with us as we call on your name and lift us in the light and peace of your presence. Amen.

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*HYMN OF PRAISE

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

#462

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: People of God, the scriptures remind us that we are accountable to our Creator. That is why, together, we come to God, asking to be cleared of secret faults and to detect the error of our ways in time to turn around, letting God's Word reach our ears. Let us confess our sins in God's presence.

All: God of all worlds, we confess our arrogance in turning away from the knowledge you offer and the relationship with us that you desire. We make light of your commandments and scoff at discipline and boundaries as if they did not apply to us. Our tongues reveal our ignorance before the vastness of your truth. O God, we cry out for forgiveness. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#85

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!**

**To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing!**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Our Creator knows our honest intent. If we truly turn from our insolent, undisciplined ways, a new way is opening up for us, and God welcomes us as partners in the gospel. In keeping God's ordinances, there is unexpected reward. 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!

READING *Psalm 150* Verse Speaking Choir

*HYMN *Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said* #393

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 9:14-29 Pages 44-45

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC *Lord, I Want to be a Christian* Ford-Simms

SERMON *Strong Medicine* Rev. Dr. Brian Blount

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: Lord Jesus, out of your love for the Father and your love for us, you gave yourself to us, walking in the way of peace and righteousness despite the cost. Bless, we pray, the gifts we offer to you at this time. Use them – use us – in the work of your kingdom, both now and forevermore. Amen.

*HYMN *Lift High the Cross* #371

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Thank You, Lord* Smallwood

* 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 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 during Sunday school (9:00) and worship (10:00). Today Lucill Van Zyl is assisting with nursery care .

ATTENDANCE at the service of September 10 was 115.



Altar Flowers

FLOWERS – Flowers for today's service were given by *Charles Kalmbach* in honor of *Abigail's birthday*. 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 October 8.

USHERS for this morning's service are Cheryl and Manuel Ojeda.



COFFEE HOUR – Please join us for *Meet Your Deacon Day* in the Fellowship Hall following this morning's worship service. Host for the month of October is Alyce Bush. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Alyce (609-683-5093).



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

James 2:14-18

- ✠ How do you respond to God's call to serve your neighbor? With your entire life? In your actions? With words?
- ✠ How deep is love if it is never expressed in actions? Discuss the state of faith that is never expressed in action or work? How would you go about changing from a "talk-the-talk" person to a "walk-the-walk" person? And visa versa.

Mark 8:27-38

- † “Who do you say that I am?” Jesus asks the disciples. Do you think Christ cares who you, personally, think he is? Do you want people you love to know you well? Explain.
- † How can “losing your life” or denying yourself in some way be a means to gaining life?

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, September 24, is Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8; Mark 9:30-37.



Attention Liturgical Dancers!

Rehearsal for the 250th Year Celebration Service

This Wednesday, September 20

4:00 p.m.

McCarter Theatre



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).

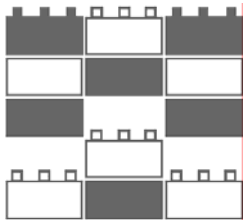


FOOD DONATIONS FOR CRISIS MINISTRY – The Deacons are collecting cereals, canned meat, fish, poultry and beans for the Crisis Ministry. *****NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE.***** Other nourishing food will also be accepted. Checks made payable to the Crisis Ministry are always welcome and may be placed in the offering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



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 **tomorrow** 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.



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 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.



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*	84,313.17
Balance	\$59,081.26

*2004 to present