

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
Cecelia B. Hodges, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director
Amy Shortt, Interim Organist
Lydie Dews, Men's Chorus Director

October 29, 2006

10:00 a.m.

Reformation Sunday

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Have Your Way, Lord

Ron Smith
Soloist

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CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 34:1-5)

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: I will bless the Lord at all times.

People: I will never stop praising God.

Leader: I sought the Lord and he answered me.

People: God delivered me from all my fears.

Leader: My soul makes its boast in the Lord.

People: May all who are humble listen and be glad.

Leader: Proclaim with me the Lord's greatness.

People: Let us praise God's name together.

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: Gracious and all merciful God – we give thanks to you today for your compassion and your love. We proclaim your goodness and your strength and we call upon you in praise and thanksgiving. Bless us and bless your people everywhere this day with your holy presence. Help us to worship you in a manner worthy of our calling and to render to you the tribute due to your name. We ask it through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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*HYMN OF PRAISE

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

#479

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, even in the midst of a large, probably noisy crowd, you helped Bartimaeus move from blindness to sight by focusing your power on his cries for mercy and healing. The crowd and the attempt by some to silence Bartimaeus did not distract you from responding to the needs of the blind beggar. This interruption to your journey provides an example of the life you call your disciples to live. The question, however, disturbs us – would we have been among those who called out for Bartimaeus to be quiet? When we find interruptions to our plans a source of frustration rather than an opportunity for serving others in your name, forgive us, Lord.

Congregational Response (Sung):

#324

**Open my eyes, that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**

Leader: Bartimaeus' desperation and cry for mercy is echoed in the lives of many people in our own communities and throughout the world. When we close our ears and our hearts to these cries, forgive us, Lord. Remind us that following you means responding to those who cry for mercy.

Congregational Response (Sung):

#324

**Open my ears, that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**

Leader: Immediately Bartimaeus regained his sight and followed Jesus on the way. The way to discipleship is entered when our eyes are graciously opened to see and follow Christ in faith. When we find excuses to delay responding to your call to discipleship, forgive us, Lord. Jesus, Savior and Lord, enlighten our minds with your wisdom, and imprint the image of your love once more on our hearts so that we can focus anew on your presence and

your power whenever and wherever you call us to serve people in your name. Amen.

Congregational Response (Sung):

#324

**Open my mouth, and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my ears, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Jesus is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:25). Hear then the good news that in and through Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

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!

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Stewardship

Ronald Smith

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

#339

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 10:46-52

Page 47

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Stand

J. Paul Stephens
Soloist

SERMON

Selective Blindness

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

He's Been Good

Thomas Espenshade
Soloist

*DOXOLOGY (kids' red page)

#592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Thank you, God, for hearing us when we call upon you. Thank you for coming to us in Christ Jesus and for granting to us those things we most need from your hands. Accept, we pray, these tithes and offerings – our gifts of gratitude – and bless them and us that they and we may serve to bring your saving word to others and glory to your name. Amen.

*HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

#376

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

In Times Like These

Jaime Escarpeta
Soloist

* 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 beginning at 9:45 a.m. Today Anne Blackwood-Chirchir 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 November 12.

USHERS for this morning's service are Beverly Owens and Adrienne Daniels Paris. Next week's ushers are Gerald Delk and James Mack.



COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for a Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall following this morning's worship service. *Refreshments are being provided by Rev. Cornell Edmonds and his family to express their appreciation to Rev. Burrows, Session, Beverly Owens and the Chancel Choir and the Witherspoon family for your participation and support of the service of ordination and installation to the position of Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of New York City.* Host for the month of November is Florence Sharpless. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Florence (609-924-2071).

ATTENDANCE at the service of October 22 was 108.



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK – MARK 10:46-52

- ✠ Bartimaeus showed great courage in spite of the fact that the disciples wanted to shut him down. And Jesus heard him. *What do you do when others tell you to keep quiet? Is Jesus part of your reaction?*
- ✠ “Master, I want to see.” *What is it that you want to “see” that will change your life as radically as Bartimaeus changed his? What was the miracle here, the faith of Bartimaeus or the healing of physical blindness?*
- ✠ Imagine the answers that the blind man could have given to Jesus’ query: What do you want me to do for you? Bartimaeus’ reply hinged upon two important factors: what is my real need and what is Jesus capable of doing? *Do you always know exactly what you need?* Some of us do not “connect” with God because we do not understand what we really need.
- ✠ What happens when we turn our attention to the second contingency: What is God capable of doing? Do we truly believe that God is capable of answering our prayers? Do we believe that God truly cares about us? Could it be that my spiritual life and yours would be fuller if we could widen our thoughts?

DOLLAR\$&CENTS **COUNTERS FOR NOVEMBER** are Adrienne Daniels Paris (Team Leader), Vicki Meisel, Maria Potts and Florence Sharpless. Counters for the Deacon’s Benevolence Offering are Valerie Smith, Alyce Bush and Sam McGriff.



CHURCH CALENDAR – A copy of the WSPC calendar for November is inserted in this bulletin. Please review it and contact the Church Office with any additions or corrections **by this Wednesday, November 1.** The updated calendar will be posted in the rear hallway.

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, November 5, is Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34.



BRING A FRIEND TO WSPC! – The Deacon Board is asking all members to bring their friends to church during the month of November. It will be a time to showcase and share all the wonderful gifts our church has to offer, especially for those that don't attend a church – maybe they'll choose Witherspoon. For more information, contact Deacon Michelle Peal (908-369-4753).



WINTER SPOONER DEADLINE – The deadline for the winter edition of *The Spooner* newsletter is **Sunday, November 12**. 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.

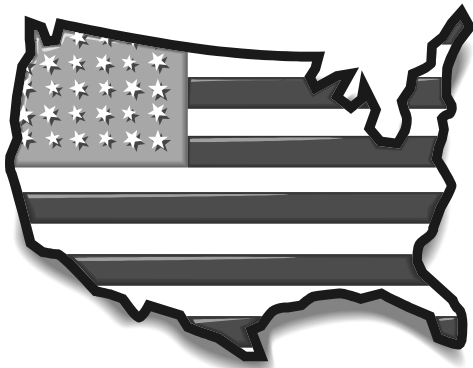


FOOD DONATIONS FOR CRISIS MINISTRY – The Deacons are collecting nourishing food for the Crisis Ministry. *****NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE.*****

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.



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).



WHITHER AMERICA? asks Dr. Paul Krugman, New York Times columnist and professor of economics at Princeton University. Dr. Krugman will talk about disturbing trends in U.S. economics and society at 6:00 p.m. **next Sunday, November 5**, in the Friend Center Convocation Room (William and Olden), Princeton University campus. This event is sponsored by WSPC to raise funds for the Robeson House. Cost is \$45. Tickets are available from Rev. Burrows.



NOONTIME RECITAL SERIES RESUMES – You are invited to the *Noontime Recital* at 12:00 noon in the sanctuary **this Wednesday, November 1**. This recital is free and will feature *Trio Pasional* (www.triopasional.com). A light lunch will follow. Flyers are available in the narthex for you to share with

your family, friends and acquaintances.



WORLD COMMUNITY DAY is **this Friday, November 3**. Church Women United invites all women to join them at Kingston Presbyterian Church (4561 Highway 27, Kingston) at 12:00 p.m. for World Community Day. This year's theme is *Signs of Healing*. Please bring a sandwich; dessert and beverages will be provided. Call Margaret Liffiton (609-924-1531) for more information.



READINGS OVER COFFEE – The Princeton Public Library invites everyone to its monthly *Readings Over Coffee* **next Wednesday, November 8**, at 10:30 a.m. Cecelia B. Hodges will present a one-woman show, *Unbought and Unbossed*, on the life and times of Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress. This event, which will take place in the Community Room at the library, is free and open to the public; no reservations are necessary. For more information, call 609-924-9529.



SHARING MEMORIES OF LIFE ON JOHN STREET – **Next Sunday, November 12**, at 3:00 p.m., Princeton Public Library will sponsor a program on sharing the memories of John Street. They invite those people who have a sense of the importance of the history of John Street to the Witherspoon community to come out and participate. This program is the final in a series of three programs. The program will take place on the second floor of the library. Penney Edwards-Carter and Terri Nelson will lead the discussion. For more information, call 609-924-9529.



REFUGEE NEEDS – Two Eritrean brothers fleeing from the war and persecution in their homeland have been granted asylum in the U.S., but they need help getting settled. If anyone can provide any of the following items it would be most welcome. For more information contact Elsie McKee (609-683-5157 or elsie.mckee@ptsem.edu). Thank you!

- two beds
- one sofa
- one kitchen table
- two kitchen chairs
- two dressers
- one alarm clock
- one radio
- two sheet sets
- two blankets
- two pillows
- paper towels
- dish cloths
- dish towels
- kitchen set for two (plates, bowls, silverware, cups, glasses, utensils, pots, pans)
- bath towels
- wash cloths
- mop
- broom
- dust pan
- bucket
- bleach
- dish detergent
- laundry detergent
- soap
- shampoo
- deodorant
- two men's medium coats