

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

Adrienne Daniels Paris, Lector

Rev. Kara Root, Guest Preacher

Beverly Owens, Music Director

Amy Shortt, Organist

David Shedden, Seminary Intern

Cecelia B. Hodges, Verse Speaking Choir Director

February 4, 2007

10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

The Ballad of the Underground Railroad
Verse Speaking Choir

Charles L.
Blockson

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WORDS OF WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 119:33-36)

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: Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees;
then I will keep them to the end.

**People: Give me understanding,
and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart.**

Leader: Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.

People: Turn my heart toward your word and not toward selfish gain.

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: God of Love and Source of all order and meaning, we gather to give praise and thanksgiving to you for your love, a love perfectly revealed in Jesus and seen in the law and in all the prophets. We thank you, Father, for your grace and for the loving guidance you have given us. Lord, you know how we need your presence to be complete, how we need your living word to direct our feet in the path of righteousness, how we need your Spirit to help us each day to live by the law of love. In this time of worship, help us to discover the fullness of your will for

our lives – and help us rejoice in that will and to lift our voices in praise and in honor of you. We ask these things in Jesus’ name, trusting in his mercy by which we have been born anew to a living hope. Amen.

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*OPENING HYMN

Morning Has Broken

#469

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Most Holy and Merciful God, you who inhabit every heart that is open to you, you who dwell in the praises of your people, hear our prayer.

People: **Forgive us, O Lord, if we have in any way defiled your holy places. Pardon us for the slander and malice that has discolored your creation and heal us of the resentments and envies that have stained your world.**

Leader: Forgive us too, most loving Father, for how we have distorted your law and misunderstood your gracious will for us.

People: **Forgive us, Lord, for how we have so often concentrated on the written word of Holy Scripture and have failed to heed the call of the word which lives within us.**

Leader: We confess, O God, that we too often stress duty and obligation and too infrequently mention the joy, the wonder, and the pace of living in the way you have shown us.

People: **Forgive us, O Lord. Help us to pause and listen for the guidance of your Holy Spirit. Show us our error and fill us with your grace and your power.**

Leader: O Lord, hear our prayer.

People: **Touch us and make us whole. Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#140

**Holy, holy, holy, holy,
Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty;
And we lift our hearts before You as a token of our love,
Holy, holy, holy, holy.**

**Precious Jesus, precious Jesus,
We’re so glad that You’ve redeemed us, precious Jesus;
And we lift our hands before You as a token of our love,
Precious Jesus, precious Jesus.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS (Romans 8:1-2)

Leader: Hear the record of God’s grace and mercy: *There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and of death.*

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*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!

CHILDREN BRING CANNED GOODS TO FRONT

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

*HYMN *Seek Ye First* #333

SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 20:1-17 / Psalm 19 Pages 66, 498-499
1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Page 166
Tracy and Harper Joseph

SPECIAL MUSIC *Hush! Somebody's Callin' My Name* Dennard
Chancel Choir

SERMON *God's Foolishness* Rev. Kara Root

TITHES AND OFFERINGS *Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,
and put your trust in the Lord.*

*(Please note that the Ushers will take the weekly tithes and offerings –
followed immediately by the Deacons who will take
the monthly offering for their particular ministry.
Please hold your Deacons' offering and put it into the second plate.)*

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY (kids' red page) #592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All: We pray to you most Merciful and most Gracious God, accept these
tithes and offerings given in love and in obedience to your word.
Make us, your humble servants, ever more holy, so that in all that we
say and do your mercy and your power and your love may shine forth
– and the world render you praise on account of us. 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 table, not of the church, but of the Lord. It is ready for those who love him and who want to love him more. So, come, not because it is we who invite you: it is our Lord. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

People: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, strong and faithful God. All your works, the height and depth, echo the silent music of your praise. As we join creation's song, we thank you for your promises to your people Israel, and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.

Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Guiding his children, he leads us. Visiting the sick, he heals us. Dying on the cross, he saves us. Risen from the dead, he gives new life. Living with you, he prays for us.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord. Receive our sacrifice of praise. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory.

We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: *Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.*

In the same way he took the cup, saying: *This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.*

These are the gifts of God for you, the people of God.

Communion of the People

HYMNS	<i>Become to Us the Living Bread</i>	#500
	<i>Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts</i>	#511

Prayer after Communion

Loving God, you graciously feed us, you have received these holy mysteries, with the bread of life and cup of eternal salvation. May we who have received this sacrament, be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises tell of your glory and truth; we who have seen the greatness of your love see you face to face in your kingdom. For you have made us your own people by the death and resurrection of your Son, our Lord, and by the life-giving power of your Spirit. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN	<i>Lift Every Voice and Sing</i>	#563
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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION	<i>Thy Will, Thy Way</i>	Fryson
	Chancel Choir	

* 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 or witherspoon@verizon.net).



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; next Sunday's nursery care will be assisted by Edwina Hawes.

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 February 11.

USHERS for this morning's service are Rebecca Campbell and Victor Richards. Next week's ushers are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: Jawhar Kimbrough and Brian Yuan with Andrew Ojeda, manager.

COMMUNION SERVERS for this morning are Josefina Asagra, Gerald Delk, Fannie Floyd and James Floyd.

ATTENDANCE at the service of January 28 was 124.



COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for a Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall following this morning's worship service. Host for the month of February is Curtis Johnson. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Curtis (732-422-1343).

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, February 11, is Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26.

DOLLAR\$&CENTS **COUNTERS FOR FEBRUARY** are Brenda Lee (Team Leader), Jaime Escarpeta and Elsie McKee. All deacons will be counting the Deacon's Benevolence Offering during February.



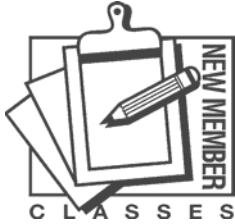
FOOD DONATIONS FOR CRISIS MINISTRY - The Deacons are collecting nourishing food for the Crisis Ministry. *****NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE.***** Checks made payable to the Crisis Ministry are always welcome and may be placed in the offering plate or given to a deacon. Please consider an extra purchase during your next grocery shopping trip and place items in the wooden box in the Narthex.



NOONTIME RECITAL SERIES - Come one, come all! Enjoy the music of Lin Wang, cellist, at the *Noontime Series* in the sanctuary **this Wednesday, February 7**, at 12:00 noon. A light lunch will follow. This recital is free, however donations are always welcome. Flyers are available in the narthex for you to share with your family, friends and acquaintances.



SPRING SPOONER DEADLINE – Deadline for the spring issue of *The Spooner* newsletter is **next Sunday, February 11**. Committee chairs and leaders of church groups, as well as other individuals with news of special interest, are encouraged to submit articles to share with our readers.



NEW MEMBERS CLASS – Those who want to become members of, affiliate with, or learn more about Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church are invited to a *New Member Class* at the manse (453 Walnut Lane) **next Saturday, February 17**, at 9:00 a.m. Pastry and coffee will be provided for those who confirm their plans to attend. Contact Rev. Burrows for details (609-924-1666 or mburr45@verizon.net).



PRINCETON COMMUNITY HOUSING, a non-profit housing developer (Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church is a sponsoring organization) is currently taking applications for their new 68 one-bedroom apartment complex scheduled to open this year. This new complex will serve low- and moderate-income elderly residents. If you are interested in more details or filing an application, please meet with Jim Floyd following the worship service **today**.



ATTENTION WSPC VOLUNTEERS FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – The joint WSPC/Nassau Presbyterian Church project continues to need volunteers. It is not too late for you to support this important effort. There is a critical need for crew chiefs for the remaining Saturdays in January, February and early March. **CAN YOU PLEASE COMMIT OR RECOMMIT TO OUR PROJECT FOR THE FEW WEEKS LEFT? CONTACT MEG COGLAN (609-651-2945 OR 609-921-1050, X138) AND LET HER KNOW WHICH DAYS YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HELP.** Volunteers who have not received Habitat T-shirts may contact Barbara Flythe (732-274-9435 or seavy33@aol.com).



WITH GRATITUDE - Thanks and best wishes for the prayers, cards, visits, flowers, etc. during my time in the hospital and also in rehab. Rolston Gaiter



VALENTINES FOR FOOD DRIVE – The Crisis Ministry of Princeton and Trenton will hold their third annual food drive **February 7-14**. The drive has been named in honor of the late Don Dickason, Nassau Presbyterian Church, who founded this program. You may participate in three ways:

- bring food items to your child's school (Princeton area) or your church
- make a monetary contribution to Crisis Ministry (checks payable to WSPC)
- purchase a Valentine for Food at McCaffrey's Supermarket for \$3.99; McCaffrey's will double your donation in food items to Crisis Ministry

Contact The Crisis Ministry (609-921-2135 or www.thecrisisministry.org) for more information.



BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM - The West Windsor-Plainsboro African-American Parents Support Group is sponsoring its annual African-American History Program **next Tuesday, February 13**, at WW-P High School North in Plainsboro at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Karen Jackson-Weaver, Executive Director of the New Jersey Amistad Commission, will be the keynote speaker. The program is free and open to the public. Details about this event can be found on the Black

History flyer at <http://www.west-windsor-plainsboro.k12.nj.us/flyers/>. For more information you can contact Barbara Edmonds at aapsg2007@aol.com.



PROPERTY ACQUISITION UPDATE

(as of November 30, 2006)

Total collection for property acquisition*	\$151,170
Total expenses*	<u>99,039</u>
Balance	\$52,166

*2004 to present