

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education
C. Adrienne Daniels Paris, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director
Amy Shortt, Organist
David Shedden, Seminary Intern

February 11, 2007

10:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Grant Us This Blessing

Fryson

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WORDS OF WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 84:10-12)

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 would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of God
than live in the tents of wickedness.

**People: A day spent near to God
is better than a thousand days spent elsewhere.**

Leader: The Lord God gives light to those who draw near to him.

People: The Lord is our sun and our shield.

God bestows favor and honor upon those who dwell in his presence.

Leader: The Lord withholds no good thing from those who walk in his way.
God blesses all those who trust in his word and turn to him day by day.

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF APPROACH

All: Most Loving God – your people are gathered. Come we pray and fill us with your Spirit. Speak your words of healing and life. Strengthen us for service in our world. Grant us your peace. In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray and we worship. Amen.

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*OPENING HYMN

To God Be the Glory

#485

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- Leader: We know that faith which is grounded in self-advancement with little or no thought for the welfare of others, has very shallow roots and will find it difficult to find sufficient nourishment in the arid times of life. We know that survival requires deep roots, yet so often we fail to ground our faith in God and God's kingdom values revealed so clearly by Jesus.
- Voice 1: Jesus looked up at his disciples – looks at us – and says: *Blessed are you who are poor, you who are hungry, you who are weeping, you who are despised.*
- Voice 2: *Woe to you who are rich, who are full now, who are laughing now, woe to you when all speak well of you.*
- Voice 1: These words don't sound too much in keeping with our value systems today. Why don't we rewrite these Beatitudes to make them more relevant for people of our generation?
- Voice 2: What a good idea! How about these?
Blessed are those who are prosperous and successful.
Blessed are those who know how to use power to manipulate others and achieve their goals.
Blessed are those who keep to themselves and don't even know their neighbors' names -- never mind loving them.
Blessed are we church members – we take pride in looking after ourselves and our buildings.
- Voice 1: That's more like it – we'll get somewhere with these!
- Leader: Yet it was attitudes such as these that Jesus was speaking against.
Jesus was not prosperous.
Jesus gave his power away.
Jesus loved people without reserve.
Are we not disciples of Jesus, seeing people through his eyes and serving and caring as he did?

*** *Silent Reflection* ***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- All: Merciful God, forgive us when we exclude people such as those whom Jesus calls "blessed." Open our hearts and our hands to reach out and to risk loving and serving those who suffer and are hurting and exploited in our society. As disciples of Christ and rooted in him, we pray that the fruit of the Holy Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control – may be borne in abundance in our lives and actively shared with neighbors with needs. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#372

**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 FORGIVENESS

Leader: The Apostle Paul writes: *If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins...But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead....* (1 Corinthians 15:17, 20) Believe, therefore, the good news that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: 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

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

#498

BAPTISM OF NOAH AHMIR CAMPBELL

*HYMN

There Is a Balm in Gilead

#394

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Page 719

Luke 6:17-26

Page 64

Kalyet Blackwood-Chirchir and Kaylin Blount

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

An' I Cry

arr. Ryder

SERMON

Wag the Dog

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: Loving God, through our Lord Christ Jesus, you bestow soundness of mind, clarity of vision, wholeness of bodies, and wisdom for each day. You bless us richly and call us to be a blessing. Receive now the work of our hands and the fruits of Christ's labor in us. May what we give be used to make known your healing and saving presence. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Lift Every Voice and Sing

#563

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

O Lord, Fix Me

Wilson

- * 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 Edwina Hawes is assisting with nursery care; next Sunday's nursery care will be assisted by Elizabeth Ferguson.

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 18.

USHERS for this morning's service are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: Jawhar Kimbrough and Brian Yuan with manager, Andrew Ojeda. 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 February is Curtis Johnson. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Curtis (732-422-1343).



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

(Questions on Sunday's readings for use by discussion groups, prayer groups, or for individual prayer.)

Jeremiah 17:5-8

‡ Compare and contrast the tree planted beside the water with the barren bush.

Do you identify completely with the tree? Or do you have some of the barren bush in you? Where does choice come into this picture? What part does it play?

‡ Are there any areas of your life where you place your trust in human beings? Why? In which areas of your life do you place your trust in God?

Luke 6:17, 20-26

‡ Although it is inevitable that you, as a disciple, suffer, do the beatitudes require you to be constantly poor or hungry? Or can you feel your need for God whatever your situation? Have you chosen to follow the beatitudes? Does it have to be a repeated choice? Discuss.

‡ Talk about the following statements in the light of the need for God as opposed to self-sufficiency:

‡ Blessed are you who are poor.

‡ Blessed are you who are now hungry.

‡ Blessed are you who are now weeping.

‡ Blessed are you when people hate you, exclude and insult you.

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, February 18, is Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-43.



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.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – Members of the Junior Usher Ministry wish to thank the congregation for your generous contributions of \$1.00 and more toward our “Souper Bowl of Caring” Sunday along with lots of canned goods. The total contributed was \$215; a check in that amount will be given to The Crisis Ministry. As of Thursday noon, the national total raised on Sunday for local soup kitchens was \$3,928,266 contributed by more than 9,000 groups! A **BIG** thanks to all who contributed!



SPRING SPOONER DEADLINE – Deadline for the spring issue of *The Spooner* newsletter is **today**. 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) **this 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).



WHAT IS ASH WEDNESDAY? – Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, the 40 days that precede Holy Week and Easter. In the Christian Scriptures the number 40 relates to the period spent in the Ark by Noah, the period spent by Israel seeking the Promised Land after the Exodus, and the amount of time Jesus was in the Wilderness after his baptism and prior to beginning his ministry. For us, the Season of Lent is an invitation to 40 days of renewal, 40 days to prepare ourselves to take in the Good News of Easter (The Resurrection) through deeper disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Ashes are the traditional sign of “mortality.” **We will celebrate Ash Wednesday next Wednesday, February 21, at 7:00 p.m.**



BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION – The 27th anniversary of the Marion Thompson Wright Lecture Series is sponsoring a program, *Time Longer than Rope*, **this Saturday, February 17**, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, Rutgers University, Newark Campus. For information, call 973-353-1871, x 40.



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 **this 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.



LISTENING ONE TO ONE – CONTACT of Mercer County is currently recruiting volunteers for its free **HOTLINE** Training Course which will qualify people to answer calls on the **HOTLINE**. Classes will begin on **Tuesday, March 6**, and run weekly through May 22, 2007. Volunteers may choose to attend the morning course (9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) or the evening course (7:00-10:00 p.m.). Classes meet at Trinity United Methodist Church (1985 Pennington Road, Ewing). Further information can be obtained by calling the administrative office (609-883-2880) or through CONTACT's website (www.contactofmercer.org).



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