

# 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  
Barbara Flythe, Lector

Beverly Owens, Music Director  
Amy Shortt, Organist  
J. Paul Stephens, Bass Soloist

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February 25, 2007

10:00 a.m.

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## First Sunday in Lent

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

### PRELUDE

### INTROIT

*My Lord, What a Morning*

Burleigh

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### CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Isaiah 55:1-7)

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 says to everyone who thirsts, *Come to the waters,*  
and to those that have no money, *Come, buy, and eat.*

**People: God invites us, saying,  
*Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.***

Leader: Incline your ear to the Lord and come to him.  
Listen that you may live.

**People: We will seek the Lord while he may be found.  
We will call upon him while he is near.**

Leader: Let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts.  
Let them return to the Lord that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

**All: Let us worship the living, loving God!**

### \*OPENING HYMN

*Ain't a That Good News*

(insert)

### PRAYER OF APPROACH

**All: Loving God, you call us to prayer, and offer yourself to all who seek  
your face. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us today and deliver us**

**from coldness of heart, a wandering mind, and wrongful desire. By the power of your living and active Word, place within us a steadfast love and devotion so that we may worship and serve you with all of our lives. Satisfy our longing with your presence and through us bring glory to your name. We ask it through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.**

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\* HYMN

*Standing in the Need of Prayer*

(insert)

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Loving God, you are both our judge and our redeemer. Hear our prayer.

**People: We know, O Lord, that you see not only our deeds, but also what is in the depths of our hearts.**

Leader: We come before you shorn of all pretence and without cause for pride.

**People: We come to ask you to forgive us and to make us new once again.**

Leader: We confess, O Lord, that when the pressure is on

**People: We do not always choose your way.**

Leader: We confess that when the choices are many

**People: We do not always choose your way.**

Leader: We confess that when temptation is great

**People: We do not always choose your way.**

Leader: Father and Mother of us all, as you have promised through Christ Jesus, forgive those things we have done that we ought not have done and those things we have failed to do that we ought to have done. Help us to choose your way. O God, touch us and make us whole. Amen.

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

**Congregational Response (Sung):**

#102

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Paul writes that *if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Savior and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* Indeed God hears our cries and reaches out to rescue us. God is here to bear us up, lest we stumble and fall. Therefore, let us hear and believe the good news of the gospel! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**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!

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 4:1-13 Page 61

\*HYMN *Give Me Jesus* (insert)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**(\*\*Students in grades 1-6 are dismissed for their Bible classes.\*\*)**

SPECIAL MUSIC *Come by Here* Young Voices of Faith

SERMON *The Devil Made Me Do It* Rev. Muriel Burrows

\*HYMN *Guide My Feet* #354

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: For all the riches you bestow, for all the good you supply, for the guidance you offer day by day, we give you thanks, O Lord. We dedicate our lives with our offerings, to your honor and glory. May what we offer be used to bring refuge to the lost, deliverance to the captives, and protection to all who call on your name. We ask it in Christ's name. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN *Lift Every Voice and Sing* #563

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *Deep River* Burleigh

\* Congregation stands  
\*\* Latecomers ushered in



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**WELCOME** - The Pastor, Elders and Deacons of Witherspoon welcome most warmly all worshippers. 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. Sunday school classes for students in grades 1-6 begin immediately after the children's message in morning worship. The spring session of the 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school class will begin **next Sunday, March 4**. The session will last six weeks. (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 Karen Delk is assisting with nursery care; next Sunday's nursery care will be assisted by Elizabeth Ferguson.



**FLOWERS** – Flowers for today's service were given by *Pamela and Thomas Espenshade* in memory of *Pamela's parents, John and Alice Hotine*. 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 March 11.

**USHERS** for this morning's service are Tony Hawes and Vicki Meisel. Next week's ushers are Elaine Walker and Eugene Marsh.



**COFFEE HOUR** - Please join us for a Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall following this morning's worship service. The Black Arts Company Drama of Princeton University will present a brief scene from the play, *Flyin' West*, by Pearl Cleage. Student director, Roger Q. Mason, will lead a brief discussion concerning the background and period of the play. Information about upcoming performances will be available.

**ATTENDANCE** at the service of February 18 was 104.

**LECTIONARY TEXT** for next Sunday, March 4, is Genesis 15:1-2, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35.



**BIBLE AND BAGELS** adult church school class resumes on the first three Sundays in March – 4, 11, and 18 – with a special Lenten study of the Lord’s Prayer, led by our seminary intern, David Shedden. The classes will meet promptly at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall where a light breakfast will be served. Please bring friends. The topics for each week are as follows:  
**March 4** ..... *Our God* (the nature of God)  
**March 11** ..... *Our Need* (daily bread and forgiveness)  
**March 18** ..... *Our Hope* (mercy, deliverance from evil, and salvation)



**COUNTERS FOR MARCH** are Joyce Abbott (Team Leader), James Frederick, Joan Tomlin and Norma Wilson.



**CHURCH CALENDAR** – A copy of the WSPC calendar for March is inserted in this bulletin. Please review it and contact the Church Office with any additions or corrections **by this Wednesday, February 28.** The updated calendar will be posted in the rear hallway.



**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.



Trenton Area  
**Habitat  
for Humanity**<sup>®</sup>

**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](mailto:meg_coghlan@yahoo.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](http://www.contactofmercer.org)).



**DON'T MISS THIS MEETING!** – The square next to Princeton Public Library will be named soon. Some residents of Princeton want the square to be dedicated to and named after Mr. Albert E. Hinds who was born in Princeton on April 14, 1902, and died last year at the age of 104. He has done more for Princeton than any resident – when Nassau Street was a dirt road, Mr. Hinds helped to pave it. His service in Princeton spans from shining shoes to serving on the Princeton Zoning Board. He was also Physical Education Director of the Colored YMCA and in his later years he taught exercises and bridge to senior citizens.

Mr. Hinds deserves a place of honor in the Princeton community. **This Tuesday, February 27**, at 7:30 p.m., the Princeton Borough Council will have an open meeting to discuss naming the square. Please be present at Borough Hall to support this endeavor.



**RADIO GOLF** – Witherspoon Futures Committee is sponsoring a theater party at McCarter Theatre on **Sunday, March 25**, for the 2:00 p.m. matinee production of *Radio Golf*, August Wilson's last play. Tickets are \$50 per person; proceeds will benefit the Robeson House Fund. A dialogue about drama with the actors and a private reception will follow. This production is appropriate for ages 12 and up. We have reserved 200 seats and are asking every member who is able to purchase or sell at least four tickets! You may reserve your tickets with Benjamin Colbert, Deborah Colbert or Paul Stephens. Please make checks payable to "Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church."



**PROPERTY ACQUISITION UPDATE**

(as of November 30, 2006)

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

\*2004 to present



**FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK**

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

**THE LENTEN SERIES**

by Gail Keffer

This series is written in the first person of the character as he/she may have felt at that time. I feel that there is a place for almost everyone in the story of Christ's death, so study of it helps us to find what is expected of us for the spreading of His Word today. All of us are tempted daily and sometimes we also deny Christ or do not take the opportunity to spread the Good News. We are all sinners. Sometimes we want to give and do

so generously. The series concentrates on Judas, Peter, Pilate, a Roman soldier, the thief on the cross, Joseph of Arimathaea, and Mary Magdalene.

**Judas:** “No sooner were the words out of his mouth than a crowd showed up, Judas, the one from the Twelve, in the lead. He came right up to Jesus to kiss him. Jesus said, ‘Judas, you would betray the Son of Man with a kiss?’” (Luke 22:47-48, *The Message*)

“Why? Why? Men will ask, and I don’t know the answer, or do I. I had been with Jesus. I had seen him do miracles. I had been the one who wanted to help him buy this kingdom he was preaching. I wanted to be a part of the new life that was going to be better than anything any of us had ever known. One time when Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with expensive aromatic oil, I scolded her for using something so expensive to wash feet. I said it could have been sold and the money used to feed the poor, but I knew in my heart that it would bring as much as 300 pieces of silver, and I knew at that time that I was going to betray this man to the authorities in return for money. Money seemed to be my prime goal in life. It wasn’t the fault of the money, it was my overzealous love of money. I thought it held all the answers. Yes, I sounded as though I was concerned for the poor, but my only concern was for myself.

“Just a few days later, I had my chance. I knew that we were all going to meet for dinner. I had told the authorities that I would make sure there was an appropriate time for them to seize Jesus. I knew that we often went to pray in the garden, so putting all these things together, I knew the timing was right.

“As we were sitting at the dinner, Jesus told us that one of us would betray him. He knew and yet I still thought I could get away with it. Jesus said, *The one to whom I give this crust of bread after I have dipped it will betray me.* He handed it to me. I knew that he knew, but I was helpless. My greed was so great. Then in a very quiet voice he told me to go and do what I had to do and get it over with. If any of them did hear they would have thought that I was going to do something, like buy food. They knew I was the treasurer, but everyone trusted me, except myself.

“I went to the authorities and led a gang of soldiers and police that had been sent by the high priests and Pharisees. We all arrived with lanterns and torches and swords. We didn’t need any of those things.

“I went to Jesus and kissed him as I had told the authorities I would do. Jesus asked who we were looking for and the authorities said *Jesus the Nazarene.* Jesus said he was the one and then they bound him and took him away. I stood out in the crowd as the one that had betrayed Jesus. I wanted to give the money back, but they wouldn’t take it. Sometimes we can’t undo what we have done. We need to think beforehand. I had committed an unpardonable sin as far as I was concerned. I was through.”

**Prayer:** Amazing God. You only ask that we believe in you, and yet sometimes it is hard. We want to think that we know what is best. We want to think that we can do it by ourselves. Help us to know that with you all things are possible, and that also know that without you, we are lost. Amen.

✠ Why did Jesus pick Judas as one of the disciples? Why did he allow him to handle the money?

✠ We can say that Satan was in his heart, but do we have to allow Satan into our hearts. Can we keep him out? How?

✠ Are we ever tempted to be like Judas?