

# Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

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Website: [www.wITHERSPOONCHURCH.ORG](http://www.wITHERSPOONCHURCH.ORG)

Rev. M. Muriel Burrows, Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Louise Johnson, Director of Christian Education  
David Shedden, Seminary Intern

Beverly Owens, Music Director  
Amy Shortt, Organist

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March 4, 2007

10:00 a.m.

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## Second Sunday in Lent Celebrating the Gifts of Women

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

### PRELUDE

### INTROIT

*More Love to Thee*

Traditional

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### CALL TO WORSHIP

Elsie McKee and Barbara Brown

Leader: We smile and sing praises as we worship in your holy, righteous presence today, O God!

**People: You pave the way for us today, tomorrow and forever!**

Leader: Today, we pray and ask many blessings upon the women of God.

**People: You pave the way for us today, tomorrow and forever!**

Leader: Guide our hearts so that we may celebrate and acknowledge gracious deeds and works from the called-upon women of God.

**People: You pave the way for us today, tomorrow and forever!**

Leader: Gracious Creator, we pray and ask for your holy presence to comfort and bring your holy salvation to those women who may be under the wrath of depression, caught in the webs of rejection and rebellion or experiencing life's challenges.

**People: You pave the way for us today, tomorrow and forever!**

Leader: Gracious Creator, we pray that you place a heavenly anointing upon the voices of women to speak of what they know to be true of your holy teachings and righteous ways.

**People: You pave the way for us today, tomorrow and forever!**

Leader: Gracious Creator, as your children, today, tomorrow and forever, we devote our entire lives to serving whole-heartedly in your churches, we exalt your precious teachings in our daily lives, and we will continue to serve as followers of your Word.

**People:** You pave the way for us today, tomorrow and forever!  
Leader: You are the way, the truth and the light.  
**People:** You pave the way for us today, tomorrow and forever!  
Leader: Forevermore, we will dwell in your holy shadow and give all praises to you, our Creator on heaven high!  
**People:** You pave the way for us today, tomorrow and forever!

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Pamela Johnson

**All:** Lord God – your ways are holy and good and your love is strong and true. You are swift to answer those who trust in you – those who walk in your ways and who make your living word their daily hope. Bless, we pray, our gathering today. Touch our hearts and our minds with the fire of your Holy Spirit. Grant that our praise may be more than words – our prayer more than speech – our songs more than mere harmony. Teach us and comfort us – strengthen us and lead us that we might draw closer to you. We ask it in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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\*OPENING HYMN

*God, You Spin the Whirling Planets*

#285

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Grace Kimbrough

Leader: The apostle Paul says: *Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.* Is it possible to claim these words as our own and repeat them as our words? Let us think about these words and their relevance for our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. Let us pray...

**All:** God of Love, we bring before you our brokenness. Our hearts ache. Our ears resound with ever-present contradictions. Our eyes are blinded by things we can easily see and believe. Our minds are deceived by concepts we can conveniently follow and understand. Have mercy on us, O God, and forgive our shortcomings. Call us this day to walk in faith to be worthy of the heritage we profess. With you as our light, guide us in our sisters’ and brothers’ footsteps who have preceded us, walking, running and dancing in your light. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

**Congregational Response (Sung):**

#322

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Diamond Holland

Leader: Hear the Good News! Our God is a God of unconditional love and compassion who calls us to follow Christ's teachings and participate with God in the healing of the world and our own lives. Live out this love.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

\*GLORIA PATRI (kids' pink page)

#579

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Outreach Committee

Patricia Fernández-Kelly

HONORING OUR MOTHERS IN THE FAITH

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!

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

\*HYMN

*Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

#430

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Numbers 27:1-11

Lucill Van Zyl

Pages 146-147

Luke 13:31-35

Page 77

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Sit at 'd Lamb's Table*

Curtis

SERMON

*In Celebration of Uppity Women*

Rev. Muriel Burrows

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sianna Peal and Edwina Hawes

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

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Kim McEwen

**All: We offer these gifts and the service of our lives to you, O God, as signs of our gratitude for all you have done and are doing for us. Without your love as we know it in Jesus, our lives would lack meaning and purpose. We pray that these gifts and our witness may help others to discover in Jesus new meaning and purpose for their lives. Amen.**

COMMUNION

Revs. Burrows and Johnson

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Living God, we give you thanks that in your mercy, you chose to breathe life into people, and plants and creatures, great and small. When people needed assurance about the future, you promised Abram descendants more numerous than the stars. And when your people found themselves enslaved, you led them to freedom – to a land flowing with milk and honey. They remembered your goodness with their mouths, but failed to reflect your goodness with their lives.

And so you spoke through the prophets – and when their words went unheeded, you spoke a new Word which would be an eternal reminder of your love and your mercy. Through your love for the world, the Word became flesh and lived among us. And so, with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

God of all eternity, your holiness and your glory would have been beyond our imagining were it not for the sacrificial life and love of Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, our beloved Lord. He refused to be tempted to use your power to serve himself, but gave it away by serving others with humility, compassion and love. And as if that were not enough, he gave his very life for us.

On the night of his betrayal, as he sat at the table and broke bread with his friends, he said: *Take and eat; this is my body which is broken for you. Remember me each time you do this.* After they had eaten, he took the cup and said: *Remember me as you drink from this, for it is my life, poured out for you – the beginning of a new relationship with God.*

God of all power, breathe your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the life of Christ and that we may make the life visible through our faithful witness to the gospel. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Breaking the Bread**

We break this bread and take this cup so that we can all share in the life of Christ. God’s gifts for God’s people.

**Distribution of Elements**

HYMNS	<i>Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound</i>	#280
	<i>Just As I Am, Without One Plea</i>	#370

**Prayer after Communion**

**Gracious and merciful God, source of all blessing, we give you thanks for inviting us to share this meal as your family. Strengthen us to be a blessing to one another and to all people, glorifying you in everything we do and say, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN	<i>There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit</i>	#398
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**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

CHORAL BENEDICTION	<i>That’s How Good God Is</i>	McIntyre
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- \* 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. 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 **today**. 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 Elizabeth Ferguson is assisting with nursery care; next Sunday’s nursery care will be assisted by Karen Delk.

**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 March 11.

**USHERS** for this morning's service are Elaine Walker and Eugene Marsh. Next week's ushers are members of the Junior Usher Ministry: Marquis McEwen and Ryan Velez with Rachel Maddox, manager.

**COMMUNION SERVERS** for this morning are Eugene Marsh, Maria Potts, Ronald Smith and Valerie Smith.



**COFFEE HOUR** – There is no Coffee Hour today. However, the host for the month of March is Gerald Delk. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Gerald (609-275-1941).

**ATTENDANCE** at the service of February 25 was 123.

**LECTIONARY TEXT** for next Sunday, March 11, is Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9.

**DOLLAR\$&CENTS COUNTERS FOR MARCH** are Joyce Abbott (Team Leader), James Frederick, Joan Tomlin and Norma Wilson. Counters for the Deacon's Benevolence Offering are Barbara Brown, Alyce Bush and Vicki Meisel.



**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.



**A NOTE OF THANKS TO ALL** – *Lord, give me strength to make each day, take my hand and lead the way. To friends and members of Witherspoon, I wish to thank you for your prayers, gifts, cards and juice. I especially thank Shirley Satterfield for shopping and running errands and Barbara Flythe who gave me a prayer box two years ago – it really works. Thanks again. Catherine (Sis) Reeves*



Trenton Area  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

**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).



**COUNTER TRAINING** – The Financial Affairs Committee will hold its annual training session for counting duty of the church collection **this Saturday, March 10**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Current counters and **ALL** Deacons should make every effort to attend. **THEY ALSO WELCOME ANY NEW PEOPLE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE COUNTING FOLD.** Questions can be directed to Ronald Smith (609-799-1817).



**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.”



**JOYCE ABBOTT** – The Latina Women’s Council has chosen *Joyce Abbott* as one of three women they are honoring at their Annual Women’s History Month Breakfast **today**. At Witherspoon, Joyce serves as a Deacon, an usher and a counter. She is the 2005-

2007 President of the Central Jersey Network of Black Women, volunteers at the local senior citizen center, and has been involved in many community service activities throughout her life.



**PROPERTY ACQUISITION UPDATE**

(as of January 31, 2007)

Total collection for property acquisition* .....	\$154,655
Total expenses* .....	<u>109,155</u>
<b>Balance</b> .....	<b>\$45,500</b>

\*2004-2007



## 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 Arimathea, and Mary Magdalene.

**Peter:** "Just then a rooster crowed. Peter remembered what Jesus had said: *Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.* He went out and cried and cried and cried." (John 26:75)

"I had been to the mountain top. I knew Jesus as a personal friend and Lord. I was sure that he was the Messiah. I had everything going for me, but I still had that human weakness. Maybe I was really afraid for my life, deep down. I felt sure the authorities were going to kill Jesus. I didn't know why exactly. I knew that many people were following his teaching. I may have been so stupid in my humanness to think that if I pretended I didn't know him, I wouldn't be killed with him.

"On that eventful night in Gethsemane, Jesus told us that things were going to get tough, but that we did not have to worry. I immediately spoke up and assured him that even if everyone else turned against him, I would not. I would always believe. He told me that I would deny him three times. This struck me deeply. I love him as Lord and Savior. I told him I would die with him and the others agreed. Little did we know what would happen.

"Christ felt a need to pray and asked us to watch. I fell asleep. I should have been praying also. All he asked was for us to watch. What did we have to watch for? Nothing was going to happen. When he came back and caught us sleeping, he chastised me and told me that I was weak. He didn't scold me, but he told me that a part of me was willing, but a part of me was also weak. And, when he left to pray again, I fell asleep again. Three times we fell asleep.

"Soon after he prayed, the authorities came with swords and clubs. Jesus didn't even put up a fight. I drew my sword and cut the ear of one of the Chief Priest's servants. Jesus told me to put the sword away, and then he healed the servant's ear. I had acted on impulse and been so foolish. I was afraid, and we ran for our lives. I followed at a distance just to see what was happening. I was a coward. They took him to Caiaphas, the Chief Priest. Jesus answered the questions with the truth and that upset them even more.

"As I was sitting there, one of the servant girls came up to me and asked me if I had been with Jesus, the Galilean. I told her that I didn't know what she was saying. I denied him again and moved out of her eye sight. But, then another person recognized me and asked if I had been with Jesus the Galilean. Again I said that I had never even seen him. I didn't know what they were asking. Others asked me and said that my accent gave me

away. I said again, *I don't know the man*. I know they knew me. I was so afraid for myself, not for Jesus. Then the rooster crowed, and I wept. Jesus had known my weaknesses. But he forgave me, and I dedicated the rest of my life to telling others about this magnificent man from Galilee.”

**Prayer:** God, we know that you know our weaknesses, and we know that you know our strengths. We know that you do not expect us to be super humans, but only to do our best. Help us to stand up for you, to realize that you will always give us the strength and wisdom we need if we ask. Help us to lead our lives in daily communication with you. Amen.

- ✠ Peter was the one chosen by Jesus to lead many people to eternal life. Why was Peter so weak when he needed to be strong?
- ✠ Do we ever deny Christ? How?
- ✠ When we are asked if we are a Christian, how do we respond?
- ✠ Are we blessed so that we can be a blessing to others?
- ✠ Faith is believing in what we cannot see or explain. Was that easy for Peter? Is it easy for you? For me?