

Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church

124 Witherspoon Street
Princeton, NJ 08542-3224

Office (609) 924-1666 • Fax (609) 924-0365 • Church Building (609) 924-1332

E-mail: witerspoon@verizon.net

Website: www.witerspoonchurch.org

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

Beverly Owens, Music Director
Amy Shortt, Organist
Sammie McGriff, Saxophonist

August 26, 2007

10:00 a.m.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

PRELUDE

INTROIT

Total Praise

Smallwood

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WORDS OF WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: How lovely is the dwelling place of our God. My soul longs to enter into the holy place of our Lord.

People: My heart and my flesh cries for joy to the living God. Happy are those who rely upon God for strength.

Leader: Truly, a day in the courts of our God is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

People: God is our sun and our shield. God bestows grace and honor. No good thing does God withhold from those who put their trust in the Lord.

All: Let us worship the living, loving God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: Lord of all – your glory is a gift to all peoples, and the door to your Kingdom is open to the last and the least of all. We thank you for this time of worship. By your Spirit be present in us. Speak to us and touch us and set us free. Lead us in the way you would have us go and save us at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord, he who brings the light of a new day to us, now and forevermore. Amen.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: In today's gospel reading, Jesus sees the plight of the woman who had suffered from a debilitating condition for eighteen years. Cutting through the legalistic restrictions of the day, he spoke directly to the woman's need: *Woman*, he said, *you are set free*. He knew he would encounter hostility from those who were defenders of the system, although it kept people bound up in needless rules and regulations. Where do we stand as the church today? Are we guilty of binding people up with rules or traditions? Or do we risk freeing people from whatever restricts their fullness of life?

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Jesus, healer and friend, so many people today are victims – bent over and burdened with the stress of making ends meet.

People: Forgive us when we get so caught up with looking after ourselves and our own needs that we fail to look at people with your eyes.

Leader: We know that in your eyes it is not personal comfort or systems or reputations that count, but seeing and meeting the needs of those who suffer in any way. You refused to ignore those on the edge of your society, women and outcasts, people whom others considered inferior and unclean. You made people a priority over rules and regulations and you graced their lives with healing and dignity.

People: Forgive us when we fail to do likewise. Jesus, Savior and Lord, unbind us and straighten us out so that the good news we proclaim boldly with our lips is joyfully visible through our caring and compassionate deeds. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SILENT CONFESSION

Congregational Response (Sung):

#362

**I love the Lord, who heard my cry
And pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise,
I'll hasten to God's throne.**

**I love the Lord, who heard my cry
And chased my grief away.
O let my heart no more despair
While I have breath to pray.**

Words by Isaac Watts. Music: African-American spiritual. CCLI# 498673

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away – see everything has become new! All this is from God, to whom

we have been reconciled through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-18a) and so – rejoice – for in Christ, we are forgiven, we are healed, we are renewed.

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 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* #387

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 13:10-17 Page 76

SPECIAL MUSIC *I Need Thee Every Hour* arr. Pethel

SERMON *Bucking the System* 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 *Because He Lives* Gaither

*DOXOLOGY (kids' red page) #592

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Gracious God, you breathe your life and love into us through the gift of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. This empowers us to loosen our resistance to love others. We express our gratitude by offering these gifts and the service of our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* #429, vv. 1, 4, 5

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus* arr. Pethel

* 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).



RALLY DAY! – Sunday school has been on break for the summer. **Rally Day is Sunday, September 9** – the start of church school for grades 1-6! On that day, please dress informally. The Deacon Board is sponsoring a special fellowship after church complete with hotdogs, chicken wings and other fixings, and – to top it off – ice cream sundaes! Please plan to join us!

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 September 16.

USHERS for this morning's service are Jaime and Jean Escarpeta. Next week's ushers are Christo and Lucill Claassens.

ATTENDANCE at the service of August 19 was 65.



COFFEE HOUR - Please join us for a Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall following this morning's worship service. Host for the month of September is Michelle Peal. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the Coffee Hour should contact Michelle (908-369-4753).

LECTIONARY TEXT for next Sunday, September 2, is Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14.



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.



DEEPEST SYMPATHY – *Gerald Delk's father* passed away last week in Memphis. No other details were available when the bulletin was printed. Please keep this family in your prayers.

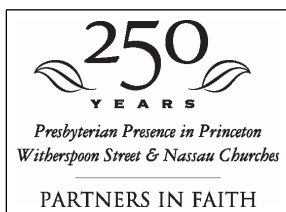
DOLLAR\$&CENTS COUNTERS FOR SEPTEMBER are Joyce Abbott (Team Leader), James Frederick, Joan Tomlin and Norma Wilson. Counters for the Deacon's Benevolence Offering are Barbara Brown, Alyce Bush and Florence Sharpless.



CHURCH CALENDAR – A copy of the WSPC calendar for September is inserted in this bulletin. Please review it and contact the Church Office with any additions or corrections **by this Wednesday, August 29**. The updated calendar will be posted in the rear hallway.



VERSE SPEAKING CHOIR “REVS UP” AGAIN at the **Tuesday, September 4**, rehearsal at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We read on Sunday, September 16. *Do join if you have been thinking about it!* Light refreshments to welcome you. Keep an eye out for a spring event.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY DEDICATION CELEBRATION – Several people from Witherspoon and Nassau Presbyterian Churches, the Habitat community, neighbors, friends, and relatives joined with Jackie Collier and her family to celebrate the WSPC/Nassau Habitat House dedication ceremony on Saturday, August 4. The program began with a very moving worship service led by Rev. Muriel Burrows and Rev. Lauren McFeaters (Nassau). Beverly Owens, Ben Colbert and Bernadine Hines sang an inspired rendition of *Bless this House*. The worship service was followed by a tour of the new house and a luncheon at the Habitat office building. An upstairs bedroom was filled with household gifts from members of both churches. Jackie Collier was happy, grateful, and tearful as she thanked all the folks who had given so generously of their time, talent, and resources to the project. Many thanks go to Meg Coghlan of Nassau for her outstanding leadership in this effort. A thank you luncheon for volunteers will be planned after September.



CALLING ALL WOMEN! – The Presbyterian Women at Nassau Presbyterian Church invite all Witherspoon women to join them for an overview of their 2007-2008 Bible study: *Above and Beyond: Hearing God's Call in Jonah and Ruth* by Joyce MacKichan Walker. This overview will take place on **Monday, September 17**, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room.

Joyce is Minister of Education and author of Suggestions for Leaders. Coffee, tea, and refreshments will be provided. Bus service between Nassau Church and the Mountain Avenue parking lot will leave the parking lot at 9:45 a.m. and bring attendees back to the parking lot at the conclusion of the meeting. You may contact Claudene Harkins (732-297-1337) for more information.



ATTENTION, PARENTS! – The West Windsor-Plainsboro African-American Parent Support Group invites you to a Welcome Back to School Informational Social on **Saturday, September 8**, at 10:00 a.m. in the upper dining room at

WW-P High School North. Get valuable information on how you can ensure that your child(ren) succeed in a competitive school district. You may contact Barbara Edmonds (609-750-7170 or bjiedmonds@aol.com) or Karen Delk (609-275-1941 or gkdelk@comcast.net) for more information.



INTERMENT FOR SIMEON MOSS will take place at Arlington National Cemetery on **Friday, September 14**, at 3:00 p.m. Those attending must meet the family at the cemetery’s administration building no later than 2:30. Deborah Moss will host a reception at her home (304 Maryland Avenue, NE) following the interment. Please contact Deborah (damoss@cmsenergy.com or 202-543-8835) if you want to attend; she can provide additional information.

This Week at Witherspoon

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| Today | Handbell Choir (Sanctuary) | Following Worship |
| Thursday | AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall) | 8:00 p.m. |
| Next Sunday | Worship – Rev. Burrows to Preach | 10:00 a.m. |
| | Communion | |
| | Handbell Choir (Sanctuary) | Following Worship |
| | Junior Usher Ministry (Fellowship Hall) | Following Worship |
| | Labor Day Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) | Following Worship |



Home Office Hours for Phyllis Rich, Secretary (609-581-1952)
Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: 9:30-12:30