

JANUARY 2009

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, January 25, 2009

In the Sanctuary

10:45 AM

Immediately after morning worship

- To hear 2008 mission and ministry reports
- To receive 2008 financial reports of the Church Treasurer
- To receive the 2009 WPC Operating Budget
- To act upon changes, if any, in terms of Pastor's call
- To elect at-large members of 2009 Nominating Committee.

All active members of the congregation are urged to attend and participate in this meeting. Friends are invited to attend and observe the best that is Presbyterian in action.

Copies of the Annual Report will be available after morning worship on Sunday, January 18, 2009 for you to pick up.

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Committee Leaders! Please submit your committee reports to the church office no later than Monday, January 5. Remember to include the members of your committee. If possible, please email the reports to (wpchurch@snet.net). Questions? Contact Susie Gross at the above email address or call 762-5514.

ALONG THE WAY

“As I Stood at the Gate of the Year”

Britain and Germany had declared war on Germany just three months before. And no one knew what lay ahead—what the new year would bring. On Christmas Day, 1939. King George VI delivered this message to his people:

The festival which we know as Christmas is above all the festival of peace and of the home. Among all free peoples the love of peace is profound, for this alone gives security to the home.

But true peace is in the hearts of men, and it is the tragedy of this time that there are powerful countries whose whole direction and policy are based on aggression and the suppression of all that we hold dear to mankind...

It is this that has stirred our people and give them as unity known in any previous war. We feel in our hearts that we are fighting against wickedness, and this conviction will give us strength from day to day to preserve until victory is assured....

I believe from my heart that the cause which binds together my peoples and our gallant and faithful Allies is the cause of Christian civilization. On no other basis can a true civilization be built.

Let us remember this through the dark times ahead of us and when we are making the people for which all men pray.

A new year is at hand. We cannot tell what it will bring. If it brings peace, how thankful we shall all be. If it brings us continued struggle we shall remain undaunted.

In the meantime I feel that we may all find a message of encouragement in the lines which, in my closing words, I would like to say to you: ‘I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, ‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.’ And he replied, ‘Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.’”

May that Almighty Hand guide and uphold us all.

It’s been a long time since 1939. And yet it was just yesterday, or last week, or this past year. The wars we fight today are not just military or even diplomatic. They are moral wars. They are not just national wars...or even international; they are individual and deeply personal. They are not just systemic wars; they are spiritual. But, for all the differences in time and in language, the spirit of King George’s Christmas Day message is oh so contemporary. The spirit of encouragement, of peace amidst struggle, of unity in the cause of civilization (and of civility), of acknowledgement of the unknown (and of its risk), and, above all, of trust in God whose Almighty Hand guides and upholds us all. But before King George, there was another who wrote his own kind of Christmas Day message of encouragement and faith to Christians who stood at the gate of their year(s):

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?...For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rules, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love for in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Roman 8.31, 38)

As this anxious new year opens, may we put our hands—of body and spirit—into the Hand of God. “That shall be to you better than light, and safer than the known way.”

Grace and Peace,

David Graybill
Your Pastor

WORSHIP AT WILTON

Sunday, January 4, 2009

Christmas 2

The Service for the Lord’s Day

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

David Graybill, preaching

Call/Worship:	Patricia and John Kohler
Scripture:	Isaiah 60.1-2 Matthew 2.1-12
Reader:	Susan Tannian
Ushers:	Buck, Deborah, Emily, Ross, Hope, and JD Burnaman
Hymns:	22 Angels From the Realms of Glory 63 As With Gladness Men of Old 411 Arise, Your Light Is Come!
Anthem:	Never Night Again

Sunday, January 11, 2009

First Sunday After Epiphany

The Service for the Lord’s Day

The Ordination and Installation of Officers

David Graybill, preaching
Ruling Elders (Class of 2011)
Geoff Brown Dan Delmar Cathy Thomas
Deacons (Class of 2011)
Rachelle Bernabei Carol Kern Mary Marquardt Jane Melani

Call/Worship: Bill Caswell
Scripture: Genesis 1.1-5
Reader: Christine Gehrlein
Ushers: Geoff, Claire, Scott, and Connor Brown
Hymns: 469 Morning Has Broken
522 Lord, When I Came Into This Life
288 I Sing the Almighty Power of God
Anthems: In The Beginning (from Creation)
The Call (from Five Mystical Songs)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

This sacrament will be administered on upcoming Sundays January 25, February 15, April 19, May 17, and June 21, 2009. Parents wishing to present their child(ren) for this sacrament are urged to contact the church office as far in advance as possible. Ordinarily, only two baptisms are scheduled at a single service.

MORNING PRAYER

Every Thursday
The Sanctuary

Sunday, January 18, 2009
Second Sunday After Epiphany
The Service for the Lord's Day

Peter Powell, President/CEO
Interfaith Housing Association (IHA)
Westport, Connecticut
preaching

Call/Worship: Cheryl Loraditch
Scripture: John 1.43-51
Reader: Catherine Dionne
Ushers: Sonny and Carol Kern; Jim and Betsy Snedeker
Hymns: 339 Be Thou My Vision
426 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak
561 My Country 'Tis of Thee
Anthems: Come Follow Me
I Dream A World

Sunday, January 25, 2009
Third Sunday After Epiphany
The Service for the Lord's Day

The Sacrament of Baptism
Welcome of New Members

David Graybill, preaching

Scripture: Jonah 3.1-5, 10
Reader: Teddy Ottens
Ushers: Jon, Elaine, and Teddy Ottens; Barbara Quincy
Hymns: 442 The Church's One Foundation
438 Blest Be the Tie That Binds
Anthem: Lord, Listen to Your Children

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

At Called Meeting on Sunday, December 21, Session received the following people as our most recent sisters in Christ:

Christine Gerhlein... daughter of Debra and Bruce Gehrlein by Profession of Faith.

Hilary Jacobs...(daughter of Linda Rost), 217 Branchville Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877; 203-984-4399 by Profession of Faith.

It will be our privilege and pleasure to welcome all new members who have joined WPC through the fall at morning worship on Sunday, January 25, 2009. In the meantime, as you have opportunity, do extend a right hand of fellowship to these new sisters in Christ.

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

December is always a busy time for us, and this December of 2008 was no exception. What was truly exceptional was our Big Music Sunday on December 14th. I am always confident of our Sanctuary Choir's ability to tackle tough music and make wonderful things happen. But I was particularly proud of our choristers that day. They took one of the tougher pieces of music in today's library of Christmas compositions – Daniel Pinkham's "Christmas Cantata" – and turned it into an exciting, vibrant presentation. Well done, folks.

Now we look ahead to the "second half" of our church season. Tentatively scheduled is another Spring Concert – feel free to mark your calendars for Friday evening, March 13. Yes, Friday the 13th. As we did last year, we are inviting members of the OLF and St. Matthews' choirs and members of the Wilton Singers to come join us in a music offering to the community. If you attended last year, you'll remember what a wonderful evening of music that was.

Then, we can look forward to our next ChoirPlus occasions for both Palm Sunday and Easter. Will let you know when rehearsals begin for those opportunities to tackle some more exciting music.

In the meantime, Merry Christmas from all of us in the Choir Program. And here's my ever-standing offer to have you come join us in the best seats in the house. Happy New Year, everyone!

NOTES ON PEOPLE

Congratulations to Catherine Cantrell and Joe Dionne at their wedding December 6th in New York City!

We extend our Christian sympathy to Tom Schneider and his family at the death of his father, Lee, at Danbury Hospital on Thanksgiving Day, November 27th. A memorial service was held, December 6th at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Jean Terrell, 90, a member of WPC since December 1, 1968, died peacefully at her home on Friday, November 28. Jean was both a Deacon and Ruling Elder at WPC and, with Janet Sprout, her life-partner, the inspiration for the WPC Memorial Garden. A memorial service for Jean was held December 6th in the Sanctuary, with interment of her ashes in the Memorial Garden.

We extend our Christian sympathy to Sally Carta at the death of her grandmother, Anna O'Laughlen, on December 1st in Baltimore.

We extend our Christian sympathy to Kevin Nugent at the death of his mother, Sue, on Sunday, December 7th in Baltimore, MD.

A huge thank you to Lelei Coyle and Loralyn Cropper and volunteers for a wonderful Christmas Party on Sunday, December 7!!!

And another huge thank you to Nancy Gorkin, Beth Mason and a WPC friend, Allan Rau, who decorated the sanctuary so beautifully for the Advent/Christmas season.

It was our pleasure to welcome non-resident members Donna Jester and Mary Evans to church on Sunday, December 7th.

CJ Jenkins is "out of the woods" on her kidney infection and currently working through 3-6 weeks of IV treatment. Within 12 hours of setting the prayer chain off, she was on the path to recovery. Wow!

We extend our Christian sympathy to Sandy Muschler, WEPCO Facilities Coordinator, at the death of her mother, Sara, in Stratford, CT, Saturday, December 13.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its Stated Meeting on Tuesday, December 16, Session took actions including the following:

- Received as information active members eligible for transfer to the Inactive Rolls of the Church;
- Received as information roll of Inactive Members deleted from the Church Rolls;
- Gave its advice and consent to Session officers and Standing Committee liaisons:

Clerk of Session -	Amy Roberts
Church Treasurer -	Frank Mabley
Asst. Treasurer -	Vivian Lee-Shiue
Financial Secretary -	Chip Mason
Adult Education -	Phil Jacoby
Building and Grounds -	Hank Watkins
Children/Youth -	Nancy Gorkin
Church Life -	Bill Rider
Deacons -	Bill Rider
Endowment -	Dan Delmar, Malcolm Keers
Finance -	Cathy Thomas
JCCEC -	Nancy Gorkin
Mission (CIA)-	Max Gabrielson
Nominating -	Steve Connor, Glenn Shattuck
Outreach -	Bill Rider
Personnel -	Geoff Brown
Stewardship -	Phil Jacoby
WEPCO -	Mac MacGregor
Worship -	Hank Watkins

--Elected Amy Roberts 2009 Clerk of Session;

--Approved call for Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 25, 2009;

- Declared Elders- and Deacons-elect ready to be ordained and/installed at morning worship on Sunday, January 11, 2009;
- Approved WPC internal financial policies and controls;
- Elected Session Commissioners to 2009 Stated Meetings of Presbytery;
- Approved 2009 Communion Schedule;
- Received report of Finance Committee concerning 2008 Operating Budget and 2009 Preliminary Operating Budget;

JOINT OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

For Elders and Deacons (Classes of 2009, 2010, and 2011)

Friday, January 9, 7:00 – 9:00 PM through

Saturday, January 10, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

at

First Presbyterian Church

178 Oenoke Ridge Road

New Canaan

Elders are urged to communicate with David Graybill, Moderator, and Deacons with Pam Kelley, President, whether (or not) they can attend (for food planning, at least!).

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Festival of Children: Our children will lead all of us in worship at the Festival of Children on February 8th. The children will learn more about worship as each class prepares to lead a different part of the service. The sermon will be a play presented by the 6th/7th grade class which they have been working on since December. In January the younger classes will be writing prayers and preparing for this service, which is planned to be meaningful for all ages. Please help your children attend Church School in January as much as possible to be part of this special service.

Upcoming Dates:

January 11-Joyful Noise Sunday

February 8-Festival of Children

JANUARY YOUTH EVENTS

Wednesday, January 7

7th & 8th Grade Sexuality Seminar, 6:00-7:30pm (No dinner)

Thursday, January 8

Sixers 6th Grade Youth Group, 5:00-6:30pm

Wednesday, January 14

7th & 8th Grade Sexuality Seminar, 6:00-7:30pm (No dinner)

Wednesday, January 21

7th & 8th Grade Sexuality Seminar, 6:00-7:30pm (No dinner)

Sunday, January 25

High School DC Mission Trip Orientation, 3:00-4:15pm

Faith In Action High School Youth Group, 4:30-6:00pm

Wednesday, January 28
7th & 8th Grade Sexuality Seminar, 6:00-7:30pm (No dinner)

WPC is a partner in the Joint Youth Ministries Program, a cooperative venture with Zion's Hill United Methodist and St. Matthew's Episcopal Churches. Unless otherwise noted, youth groups meet at the WEPCO complex, 48 New Canaan Road. Please contact Director of Youth & Children's Activities, Jane Field, jane@wpcnet.net or 762-5514 if you have any questions or concerns. If your family includes a 6th-12th grader and you have not been receiving our regular email reminders or "snail-mail" postcards, please let Jane know and we'll add you to the list right away!