

FEBRUARY 2009

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2009



Angel by Husam Khairallah

THE JOINT FESTIVAL OF CHILDREN
In the
WILTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SANCTUARY
10:00 AM

5th, 6th, 7th Graders of Wilton Presbyterian and St. Matthew's
Episcopal Churches
Preaching

"Epi-phantasy" explores how the Bible is the story of God's family
And how each of us as members of God's family live our lives.

Liturgy led by the children of the Joint Church School

Following the service there will be a joint reception in Parish Hall.
Please join us!

ALONG THE WAY

“Amazing Grace”

At its Stated Meeting on January 10 Session unanimously resolved to present a “bare bones” 2009 General Operating...complete with zeros and a deficit.

At its Annual Meeting on January 25, you responded as a congregation with such amazing grace to the truth and transparency presented by Kit Smith and Amy Roberts on behalf of Session. No *sturm und drang*. No finger pointing or blame. Questions abounded, of course—as they rightly should have and compassion for one another. But the positive, “can-do” spirit of this congregation was almost palpable in the congregation’s trust of Session’s leadership as we figure this out in the course of year, in the congregation’s support of “we’re all in this together.”

Figuring this out will, of course, require the focus, dedication, creativity and (yes) sacrifice of virtually every member of the congregation. We know that. But you members of the congregation were then...and still are...an amazing grace.

- Officers have been quick to offer their spiritual gifts of leadership. Come Sunday to worship this “Spirit Sunday”, February 1, when they lead us all in worship of God. And stay afterward if you can for some exercise in discerning your spiritual gifts. (We will close by 11:45 AM!)
- A Game Plan group is going to meet on Tuesday, February 3, to prepare a recommendation (or recommendations) to Session at its next meeting, February 10. This is a meeting open to all. Just come if you are willing and able.
- Members have communicated their willingness to pitch in financially as they are able. Call Chip Mason, Financial Secretary (762-2906), if this is your desire.
- Already, at least one event is being planned in late February to bring people together. And others, I know, will follow; prompted by people’s eagerness to do everything they can to draw this congregation closer.

This has been, still is, and always will be a “can-do” spirit of this congregation. You’ve done it before for others. Just think MATE, the soup kitchen, A Better Chance, Wilton Commons, and refugee resettlement. Or think the construction of the WEPCO facility, the Memorial Garden, and the Sanctuary (And we are now debt-free!)

The challenges are great, of course; but the spiritual resources of this congregation are an amazing grace that will rise to meet those challenges—as individuals, as members of this congregation, and as citizens of this nation—through this year and in years to come. Who knows? Perhaps the likes of WPC members and friends will be one of “thousand points of light” Thomas Wolfe wrote about that will lead others through and beyond the current “mess”?

As Paul wrote to the Philippians and still writes to us: “I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4.12-13)

Grace and Peace,

David Graybill
Your Pastor

BIBLE WITH THE BOYS

Noon – 1:00 PM
in the Alcove

MORNING PRAYER

Every Thursday
7:30 AM
the Sanctuary

WORSHIP AT WILTON

Sunday, February 1, 2009

Epiphany 4

The Service for the Lord's Day

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

David Graybill, preaching

Call/Worship: Geoff Brown
Readers: Hank Watkins & Glenn Shattuck
Scripture: I Corinthians 12.4-13
Romans 12.1-8
Ushers: Bil, Sheryl, and John Rider, Gladys Hyatt
Communion Prep: Nancy Gorkin
Hymns: 462 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
339 Be Thou My Vision
517 We Come As Guests Invited
Anthem: Be thou My Vision

Sunday, February 8, 2009

Epiphany 5

THE JOINT FESTIVAL OF CHILDREN

In

WPC Sanctuary

6th-7th Graders of Wilton Presbyterian and St. Matthew's Episcopal, preaching
Liturgy led by the Children of the Joint Church School

Sunday, February 15, 2009

Epiphany 6

The Service for the Lord's Day

David Graybill, preaching

Call/Worship: Mary Marquardt
Reader: Beth Mason
Scripture: 2 Kings 5.1-14
Mark 1.40-45
Ushers: John, Doon, and Julia Foster, Marianne Wilson
Hymns: 478 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
392 Take Thou Our Minds, O Lord
379 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

This sacrament will be administered on upcoming Sundays 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.

Sunday, February 22, 2009
Transfiguration Sunday
The Service for the Lord's Day

Led by WPC D.C. Youth Mission Participants

Hymns: 324 Open My Eyes That I May See
 325 Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers
 423 Jesus Shall Reign
Anthem: Prayer Is the Soul's Sincere Desire

Wednesday, February 25, 2009
Ash Wednesday
The Lounge

6:15 PM – Pot-luck supper (for children, teens, and adults).

7:15 PM – The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (in the Sanctuary)

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM

Please, please, please!!! Mark your calendars for Friday evening, March 13 ... yes, Friday the 13th!! This is the date for our second annual Spring Concert. Many of you will recall that last year our Sanctuary Choir was joined by members of both Our Lady of Fatima's choir and the Wilton Singers to perform, among other works, the glorious "Requiem" written by John Rutter.

This year, we are hoping to expand the chorus by inviting choir members from St. Matthews, Wilton Baptist, Wilton Congregational and Zion's Hill Methodist churches to join us. At this point, we have no clue as to how many additional voices that will mean, but I'm hoping we will end up with a total chorus numbering between 45 and 60.

The major work for the evening will be Gabriel Faure's "Requiem", one of the most moving choral masterworks of all time. We'll also be singing two spirituals – "Deep River" and "When the Saints Go Marching In" – arranged by John Rutter; plus another spiritual we sang last year – "It is Well With My Sou.l" We'll close out the program with "God So Loved The World" by John Stainer.

For those who attended last year's inaugural Spring Concert, you'll recall what a magical evening it was. Inspired music. A wonderful band of choral and instrumental musicians. And a very receptive, appreciative audience.

Once again, the program is being offered FREE as a gift to the Wilton community from WPC and the other participating music organizations. There will be a freewill offering to help cover expenses associated with the concert. One extra note: If any of you non-choir members wish to take part in this special vocal experience, please contact me. We'll be delighted to have you join us. Rehearsals have already begun and we'll continue rehearsing on Thursday evenings, and will have extra rehearsals for those who can join us scheduled on Saturdays beginning February 21st.

So again, March 13th ... 8:00 p.m. ... Spring Concert. Hope to see ALL of you there ... either singing with us ... or enjoying the music from the pews.

Al

FESTIVAL OF CHILDREN **February 8, 2009**

Our Church School classes are now enthusiastically preparing for this year's Festival of Children, a joint worship service for all ages led by the children of both of our churches. Each grade level has a special responsibility in leading worship:

- The Kindergarten children are learning to say the Lord's Prayer in American Sign Language,
- The 1st grade class will be singing and signing the Call to Worship,
- The 2nd and 3rd grade classes are writing and preparing to lead the Prayers of the People,
- The 4th and 5th grade classes are writing and preparing to lead the Prayer of Confession,
- The 6th and 7th graders are practicing their roles in this year's sermon/play, Epi-phantasy. The sermon/play is an epiphany fantasy story about a boy who comes to realize through a dream experience how the bible is the story of God's family, to understand that we are all members of God's family, and to experience what that membership means in terms of how we live our lives.

Our children learn about worship as they prepare to lead it, so we particularly value having your child in Church School during February as we prepare for the Festival of Children. Following the Festival of Children there will be a joint reception in the Parish Hall. Please be sure to join us!

FEBRUARY YOUTH NEWS

Sunday, February 8

3:00pm – Mandatory DC Mission Trip Orientation Meeting
4:30-6:00pm – High School "Faith In Action" Group (Topic: Darfur)

Wednesday, February 11

6:00-7:30pm – 7th and 8th Grade Youth Group and 8th Grade Confirmation Class
(Activity: Labyrinth)

Thursday, February 12

5:00-6:30pm – Sixers 6th Grade Youth Group (Topic: Love!)

Monday, February 16 – Saturday, February 21

High School Mission Trip to Washington DC

Wednesday, February 25

6:30-8:15pm – 8th Grade Confirmation Class and Mentors' Ash Wednesday Observance

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. Please contact Director of Spiritual Formation, Jane Field, jane@net.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!

HIGH SCHOOL DC MISSION TEAM IS COLLECTING MITTENS, GLOVES AND HATS

Members of the high school youth group are preparing for the annual mission trip to Washington DC, where they will spend a week serving the hungry and homeless. As in years past, they are collecting new (or clean and very gently used) mittens, gloves and hats to distribute to the men, women and children living on the streets of our nation's capital. If you would like to donate, please be sure to bring items to the collection boxes outside the church office no later than Wednesday, February 11.

WPC IS “EXPERIENCING THE BIBLE AGAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME”

Our Elders, Pastor and Director of Spiritual Formation, Jane Field, invite everyone to participate in a 10-week adventure in experiential learning and building community through the companionship of a small group. Beginning in Lent, a variety of small groups will meet and use the Faith Formation curriculum “Experiencing the Bible Again For The First Time.” This program is based on the work of Biblical scholar Marcus Borg. Each session includes a nourishing time of worship, a 5-minute DVD talk by Professor Borg, and ample opportunity for discussion and personal sharing. These groups will provide us with an opportunity to share our faith in a close-knit community. Each lesson will draw us into an exploration of our religious and spiritual journeys in the context of education about what it means to be a Christian. This program of study is not only a wonderful tool for communicating an emerging vision of the Bible and Christianity, but even more importantly, it is a means for embodying it.

We hope that you will join one of these small groups: there will be at least one “co-ed” group meeting each week, beginning Ash Wednesday (February 25). The men’s Bible study group, “Bible with the Boys,” which meets Tuesdays at noon, will also be following this program, as will the women’s Bible study groups, which will meet Fridays and Sundays, beginning February 27. Stay tuned to the weekly “Presbyterian” for more detailed information about meeting dates, times and places. (And if none of these groups fits your schedule, why not consider forming another small group to follow the curriculum? WPC can equip you with all the materials and preparation you would need as a lay leader, and we would be happy to help you publicize your meetings. Please contact Director of Spiritual Formation, Jane Field, if you are interested.)

NOTES ON PEOPLE

We extend our Christian sympathy to Kit Smith at the death of his mother, Joyce, at Greenwich Hospital . A memorial service was held on Saturday, January 17 in Rye, New York.

Jane Celentano took a nasty fall on Saturday, January 10th and broke her wrist. She is home recuperating, but can’t do much since it was her right hand. Surgery might be in the future, but the doctors aren’t sure yet. She’s moving at a snail’s pace and very frustrated!

Sean Roberts, son of Steve and Amy Roberts, is recuperating from a broken thumb and dislocated knee suffered in a recent skiing accident.

It was a pleasure and privilege to welcome former WPC member Cheryle Shelton at morning worship on Sunday, January 11.

Len Rovins, husband of Judy Rovins, is a resident at The Jewish Home in Fairfield, CT.

It was the congregation’s privilege and pleasure to welcome the following new members at morning worship on Sunday, January 25th: Mary & Bill Bendix, Lisa, Bill & Bryan Caswell, Christine Gehrlein, Cheryll Hadley, Hilary Jacobs, Cheryl Loraditch, Cathy & Tyler Ratcliffe, and George Ryder.

Lisa Hofrichter has been a patient at Norwalk Hospital this week.

Sue Schapiro has been a patient this week at Norwalk Hospital. It looks like she will not have to have surgery because the obstruction in her small intestine is responding to medication and diet.

We hold close in prayer Peter Thompson, son of Boardman and Ann Thompson (former WPC members), at the tragic death of Peter’s wife, Lynn, in Charleston, South Carolina last week.

We hold in prayer Lisa Lillie, who is battling a nasty case of flu in her new (temporary) home at Avalon Springs. (Her phone number remains the same.)

Kristin Rider is recuperating at Colorado College from some minor surgery on her wrist this week.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its Stated Meeting on January 13, Session took actions including the following:

- Amended the Call for the Annual Meeting to include the Nominating Committee's nomination of Lisa Lillie as Ruling Elder (Class of 2009);
- Received the 2009 financial reports of the Session and authorized their publication in the 2008 Annual Report to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2009;
- Approved the 2009 General Operating Budget and authorized its publication to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 25, 2009;
- Gave advice and consent to leaders of 2009 Committees.

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Congregation voted

- To receive as information the mission and ministry reports of staff, Session and its Committees and the Board of Deacons;
- To receive as information the 2008 financial reports of the Church Treasurer;
- To receive the 2009 Operating Budget as adopted by Session;
- Elected Lisa Lillie as a Ruling Elder (Class of 2009);
- Elected Tom Mann, Perry Seelert, and Sandy Shifrin as members of the 2009 Nominating Committee of the Congregation.

As a follow-up to this meeting, there are two upcoming events:

- **This Sunday, February 1, Ruling Elders will lead worship on the theme of "Spiritual Gifts."** Following Worship (and remaining in the Sanctuary), the Pastor will lead members and friends in some brief exercises focusing on their spiritual gifts. Those attending are urged to complete the Spiritual Gifts Discovery Survey distributed at the Annual Meeting and bring the completed survey with them to church this coming Sunday morning. There are copies of the survey available on the credenza in the Narthex and in the church office.
- **A Game Plan Group** (currently Ruling Elders Dan Delmar and Amy Roberts, Deacon/former Elder Barbara Quincy, and members/former Ruling Elders Joe Dionne and Sandy Shifrin) will meet on Tuesday, February 3, 7:30 PM at the church. This group is charged with preparing an initial "game plan" for closing our budget gap to Session at its February 10 Stated Meeting. Any member of the congregation who wishes to contribute to this discussion is welcome. Come as you are inspired and able!

DRUM CIRCLE

**An Evening of Fellowship and Fun
Saturday, February 28, 2009
In the Lounge**

6:30 PM	Social Hour with one another
7:30 PM	Drum Circle led by Ev Avoglia

Drum Circle? What's that? Call Bill Rider (762-7958) for details. A time for fellowship and fund together. Limited to 25 adults.

THE PROFESSIONAL PLACEMENT RESOURCES committee at St. Matthew's wishes to create a group of networkers willing to assist members of our community who are in a job transition. Networking is sharing expertise in a specific field to help those seeking employment or a change in career. A networker will be one who listens, suggests and perhaps refers. A networker is not responsible for providing or finding employment for others. To sign up for this vital ministry please send your name plus a capsule description of your present career experience to John Satula (jsatula@saintmathews.net) and he will maintain this list on a confidential basis and your name will not give out your name without prior permission. For those facing job transition, the following links are suggested: www.newcanaancats.org; www.darienprofessionals.com; and www.craigslist.org

Recently unemployed or thinking about re-entering the workplace?

Join SpencerStuart consultant Art Brown as he offers his "You Are The Brand" seminar. For 90 minutes he will provide insight and advice on how to help you craft a clear personal and professional vision, build a resume that works best for your brand, map a process to assert yourself into the market with purpose, and provide a number of tools and samples on how to help move forward in your career. He will also provide interview advice and insight into executive recruiters and human resources practices.

From 7:30-9 p.m. Monday February 23, 2009;
Church Lounge
Please RSVP to the St Matthew's church office: 762-7400