

**MARCH 2009**

**Mark Your Calendars:  
Second Annual Community  
Spring Choral Program**



**Friday, March 13, 2009  
8:00 p.m., WPC Sanctuary**

**Program**

Requiem            Gabriel Faure  
Deep River        arr. John Rutter  
When the Saints Go Marching        arr. John Rutter  
O Vos Omnes        arr. Clay Zambo  
It Is Well With My Soul  
God So Loved the World        John Stainer

**Presented by choristers from**

Our Lady of Fatima Church            St. Matthews Episcopal Church  
Wilton Baptist Church                Wilton Congregational Church  
Wilton Presbyterian Church            Zion's Hill Methodist Church  
Wilton Singers

The Outreach Committee has graciously offered to host a reception in Parish Hall following the concert. If you would like to contribute either an appetizer or a bottle of wine, please contact Patty Connor at [shelby27@optonline.net](mailto:shelby27@optonline.net) at 761-0163. There will be a freewill offering to defray costs of the concert.

The very first sermon of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark opens with his saying, “The time is fulfilled.” From time to time I’ve asked myself, “What time? And when? And how?” When Jesus came is Mark’s answer...all the way through his Gospel.

I remembered this time to which Jesus referred—not so much in our chronological time, but at God’s appointed time—when Jesus came with Good News.

And I remembered this Good News of Jesus

- when you expressed appreciation of Session’s candor and transparency in Kit Smith’s and Amy Roberts’ presentation of the 2009 Operating Budget at the January 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting;
- when you exploded with imagination and energy at the February 1<sup>st</sup> congregational gathering on spiritual gifts, suggesting ;
- when, within two weeks of the Annual Meeting, you responded with new pledges and increased pledges to reduce the deficit from \$77,000 to \$55,000;
- when, within that same two weeks, three new small groups formed for joy in God and fellowship with one another: a networking group for people-in-transition, a drum circle, Lenten pasta suppers
- when, even before Session approved a “second wave” campaign targeted to focus on programs and mission (which had been “zeroed” in the proposed 2009 Operating budget), a member of the congregation spontaneously offered a matching grant to the congregation: \$12,500 toward its goal of \$25,000.
- when the wonders of God in you keep coming...

God is in the business of Good News...and no more certainly, no more faithfully than in bad, challenging, and uncertain times. First and foremost, of course, this Good News was fulfilled in the incarnation and life of his Son Jesus Christ. And subsequently, this Good News is being fulfilled in the incarnation and life of Holy Spirit in and through the life of Christ’s people. As a matter of faith, it was true for Mark and his extended family. And it is no less true for WPC and our extended family. God’s Good News in Jesus Christ is so alive and well!

Grace and Peace,

**MORNING PRAYER**

Every Thursday  
In the Sanctuary

David Graybill  
Your Pastor

**NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM**

The cover of this month’s newsletter says it all: Friday evening, March 13 ... yes, Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> ... 8:00 p.m. ... Spring Choral Concert ... massed chorus featuring choir members from WPC, St. Matts, Wilton Congregational, Wilton Baptist, Our Lady of Fatima, Zion’s Hill ... and members of the Wilton Singers ... in a gift to the community. One of our two soloists: Chris Monteleone. A graduate from WHS, Chris went on to star in Broadway’s “Beauty and the Beast,” playing both the Beast and Gaston. And it’s all FREE. (*OK, OK – truth in advertising. There WILL be a freewill offering.*)

On the program: Gabriel Faure’s “Requiem”, one of the most moving choral masterworks of all time. Plus two spirituals – “Deep River” and “When the Saints Go Marching In” – arranged by John Rutter ... and one we sang last year, “It is Well With My Soul.” There will be a world premiere of a work by Clay Zambo (how cool is that!!) and we’ll close with “God So Loved the World” by John Stainer.

It was a wonderful event last year ... should be even bigger and better this year. So mark your calendars, come and relax, and enjoy this musical gift to the community.

## WORSHIP AT WILTON

**March 1, 2009**

**Lent 1**

**The Service for the Lord's Day  
9:30 AM (this Sunday only) in WPC Sanctuary  
The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper  
The Rev. Lindsay Curtis  
Pastor, Grace Baptist Church, South Norwalk  
preaching**

This WPC-Grace Baptist JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE is one of the highlights of our year. This year Grace Baptist will be visiting us for morning worship at 9:30 AM in the WPC Sanctuary. What an appropriate time in our lives to worship and praise God together!

Call/Worship: Jane Neighbors  
Reader: Bruce Gehrlein  
Ushers: Greg, Carolyn, & Lindsay Wheeler, Margaret Carkner  
Hymns: 77 Forty Days and Forty Nights  
80 Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley  
485 To Thine Be the Glory  
Anthems: I Dream a World  
Celtic Communion

**March 8, 2009**

**Lent 2**

**The Service for the Lord's Day  
David Graybill, preaching**

Call/Worship: Susan Boardman  
Reader: Cheryl Hadley  
Scripture: Isaiah 1.18-20  
Mark 14.17-21  
Ushers: Dennis & Reissa Shield  
Hymns: 81 Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days  
101 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
84 In the Cross of Christ I Glory  
Anthems: Clothed in Righteousness  
Lord, Is It I?

## EASTER FLOWER AND MUSIC FUNDS

Contributions are being accepted in memory/honor of loved ones for both the Music Fund and the Flower Fund. Their names will be listed in the bulletins for the 10 AM service on Easter Sunday. Please have your contributions (of any amount) to the church office no later than Friday, April 3rd. Remember to include your name as well as the names of those people you wish remembered. Be sure to stipulate either the Flower and/or Music Fund and in memory or honor of.

**March 15, 2009**  
**Lent 3**  
**The Service for the Lord's Day**

David Graybill, preaching

Call/Worship: Cheryll Hadley  
Reader: Tyler Ratcliffe  
Scripture: John 19.25-27  
Ushers: Nina Eckhoff, Mark & Mary Gibson, Janet Johnson  
Hymns: 78 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed  
82 O Lamb of God Most Holy!  
92 Beneath the Cross of Jesus  
Anthems: Silent Tears

**March 22, 2009**  
**Lent 4**  
**The Services for the Lord's Day**

David Graybill, preaching

Call/Worship: Heather Wilson  
Reader: Wyatt Lillie  
Scripture: John 3.14-21  
Ushers: Julie, Rick & Josh Fingeret, Marianne Krumm  
Hymns: 487 When Morning Gilds the Skies  
370 Just As I Am, Without One Plea  
298 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy  
Anthems: When I Survey  
God so Loved the World

**March 29, 2009**  
**Lent 5**  
**The Services for the Lord's Day**

David Graybill, preaching

Call/Worship: Elaine Ottens  
Reader: Lisa Hofrichter  
Scripture: Jeremiah 31.31-34  
John 12.20-33  
Ushers: Frank, Lynn, Craig, and Kathryn Sapphire  
Hymns: 423 Jesus Shall Reign  
148 At the Name of Jesus  
388 O Jesus, I Have Promised  
Anthems: What Wondrous Love  
The Cross Was His Own

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

This sacrament will be administered on upcoming Sundays 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.

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

This is WPC's annual special offering for denominational disaster assistance, programs to alleviate hunger, and for employment training. Mite boxes were distributed to the children of the church and offering envelopes are being mailed to the members. There are additional mite boxes and OGHS envelopes on the credenza in the Narthex. The offering will be received and dedicated on Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> and Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

### BIBLE WITH THE BOYS

Noon – 1:00 PM

in the Alcove

Marcus Borg, Reading the Bible Again... For The First Time

### CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

This year's Festival of Children on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> was a very moving and joyful service in the WPC sanctuary as the children of our Church School led us in worship! We thank all of the children, teachers, JCCEC members, teen assistants and parents who made the Festival a reality by their hard work and support!

This year's sermon/play, "Epi-phantasy" gave a brief overview of the Bible as the story of God's family and retold the story of some important members of that family. The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders assisted by some 5<sup>th</sup> graders each gave their own spark to this retelling aided by costumes, swordplay, and beautiful paintings created by Husam Khairallah. The younger classes and all the congregation in the pews were mesmerized. As the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders led the Prayer of Confession, the 1<sup>st</sup> graders sang and signed "Jesus Loves Me", the kindergarten signed the Lord's prayer, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders prayed their thanks for "burgers, chicken, hotwings" and "our pets because they are so loveable," we were all reminded powerfully that indeed "We are all God's family."

### YOUTH EVENTS IN MARCH

Sunday, March 1	Koinonia 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group, 4:30-6pm Katalysta 10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group, 4:30-6pm
Wednesday, March 4	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group, 6-7:30pm
Thursday, March 12	Sixers 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group, 5-6:30pm
Sunday, March 15	Faith In Action High School Youth Group, 4:30-6pm "Pennies for Peace" Guest Speaker: Kevin Meehan
Wednesday, March 18	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class, 4:30-7:30pm 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Group, 6-7:30pm
Sunday, March 22	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class, 10-11:15am Children's Choir Rehearsal, 11:15am to Noon

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 Spiritual Formation, Jane Field, [jane@wpc.net](mailto:jane@wpc.net) or 762-5514 if you have any questions or concerns. If your family includes a 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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!

### MANNA HOUSE

On February 10th members of the Manna House Volunteer Team, a joint mission project of St. Matthew's and WPC, purchased, prepared and served a nutritious "main meal" including entree, vegetables, salad, iced tea, and assorted breads, rolls, fruits and desserts to 249 homeless men, women and children at the Norwalk Emergency Shelter. The number of guests served has doubled in the last four months. The two churches have been working together to feed the homeless on the second Tuesday of every month for over 25 years.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its Stated Meeting on February 10, Session took actions including the following:

- Heard from members Mac Keers and Sabrina Gutknecht concerning funding for Katrina 8 Recovery Team in April and from Tom Mann regarding his concern for WPC's traditional support of mission (and especially the Good Samaritan Fund) in these hard times for many in our church and community;
- Elected Jim Neighbors to the WEPCO Board of Directors (Class of 2009);
- Received reports from Steve Connor, Dan Delmar, and Malcolm Keers as Session's Commissioners to the February 7 Stated Meeting of Presbytery;
- Received as information a WPC Operating Budget Update indicating that estimated income had increased by \$22,400 since the 1-25-09 Annual Meeting (due to 5 new pledges received and 3 existing pledges increased);
- Approved a plan to close a budget gap of \$85,000 (=program/mission reductions/\$30,000 + projected current deficit/\$55,000) through a series of events, including
  - +Second Stewardship "Wave" designated for "filling in the (current) zeros" in program and mission budgets (March)
  - +Two congregational events (one spring and one fall)
  - +A series of minor events (throughout the year);
- Approved a transfer of \$15,000 from Bob Garland Operating Fund to General Operating Budget (thus, reducing the current projected budget gap from \$85,000 to \$70,000).

## NOTES ON PEOPLE

- Susan Mathews is home recuperating from a partial knee replacement.
- We hold close in prayer Gladys Bendix, mother of Bill Bendix, who has been diagnosed with lung cancer.
- Sue Schapiro, mother of Jane Melani, has sprung Norwalk Hospital for rehabilitation at Wilton Meadows.
- David Canary is recuperating from hip surgery at Norwalk Hospital on Monday, February 9, at Meadow Ridge in Redding.
- Mac MacGregor continues his recovery from pneumonia.
- We extend our Christian sympathy to Judy Rovins at the death of her husband. Len, on Wednesday, February 18 at Norwalk Hospital. A private graveside service was held on Friday, February 20 at Willowbrook Cemetery in Westport. A memorial service will be scheduled later at Westport Town Hall.

## A 'SECOND WAVE' CAMPAIGN March 1 – 31, 2009

To help close the effective, total deficit in the 2009 Operating Budget, Session approved a "second wave" campaign to invite members who have not yet submitted pledges to consider doing so and to encourage those in our church family who are able to consider increasing their 2009 pledges. This campaign is intended to be

- **targeted**—for program ministries (within the congregation) and mission (beyond the congregation).
- **timely** – before the Church Life Committee runs out of paper goods, before the Worship Committee runs out of communion cups and candles, before JCCEC has to begin charging church school registration fees, before the Mission Committee has to deny support for long-standing mission projects such as MATE, Pivot Ministries, and others. and before...
- **and temporary**. March 1 – 31 is the limited duration of this campaign.

Members will receive a letter with return envelope and pledge card during the first week of March. Please receive this letter and consider participating in this campaign as you are able. Aside from that information provided at morning worship on February 22, there will be no further announcements about this campaign at Sunday worship.

## ROSES IN WINTER

*At the Joint Officers' Conference on January 9-10 and, subsequently the congregational gathering on February 1, WPC leaders and members bloomed with fresh ideas for activities that might draw us together as a community of faith in and through these times. Patty Connor (with Jane Field's help) took notes. We invite those of you who may be interested in one or more of these activities to contact the person listed next to the activity for more information.*

### **WPC Fellowship & Fundraising Ideas Sunday, February 1, 2009 Patty Connor and Jane Field**

#### Outdoor Activity - (Sonny Kern, Steve Connor, Amy Roberts)

Do something fun OUTSIDE with our church family, for example: river-rafting, biking or hiking...and enjoy the wonderful outdoors together.

#### People in Transition [Careers] Support Group ["PIT's"] - (Ralph Bernabei, Steve Connor, Sunny Kern)

Many people are finding themselves out of work or just feel the need or desire to change their careers. We have people in our church with all kinds of experience and connections-this will be a great opportunity for the people in the "PITS" to network or just talk about what they want to do or what they know.

Will meet once per month -First meeting was held Thursday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

#### Returning Vets Outreach - (Linda Rost, Geoff Brown, Max Gabrielson)

We have a new generation of veterans that have come home or are coming home from the nightmare in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many are suffering from post-traumatic stress and worse: the suicide rate for these vets (and for many soldiers still serving) is at an all time high. We need to reach out to them and help them in any way that can.

We can get the youth group involved

We can contact the VA Office for assistance or direction

#### Single Women's Group - (Lisa Hofrichter)

Get the single ladies at WPC together for an evening activity or just together to talk once per month or every other month at someone's home.

#### Acting Group - (Lisa Hofrichter) Share the passion of acting and put on skits and short plays at the church.

Writing Group/Pen-Pals with Elderly People - (Lisa Hofrichter) Create a "writing relationship: between WPC members and some of the elderly at a local nursing home. The elderly love interacting with young children and many of them have no family close by and are lonely. The exchange of a small note, letter, or card gives them something to look forward to.

We can get the kids in the church involved

Idea Sharing - (Barry Gutknecht, along with committee members Jane Neighbors, Dan Delmar, and Adele MacGregor). If you visit other churches (either locally or while traveling), take note of the things you liked about their service or church and share the ideas with the committees at WPC. Designate an area on our church web-site to post the ideas. Many great ideas come from other sources.

#### **FUNDRAISING** - (Hank Watkins, Elaine Ottens, Bill Rider)

Tag Sale - Spring of this year. People can clean out their garages, basements and attics and we can hold a tag sale here at the church to raise funds for the church.

We can distribute flyers and advertise it within a 20 Mile Radius (*our trash is someone else's treasure and what's old to us is new to them!*)

On-Line “Auction” or registry for Vacation Homes - (Barry Gutgnecht)

Many people own second homes (vacation homes) in another location (Florida, Cape Cod, Block Island, Mt. Snow Ski House...). This fundraiser could raise a lot of cash for the church and it wouldn't require a lot of manpower (or WOMAN POWER), or overhead like your traditional auction fundraiser would.

Member and Friend Talent Sharing - (Elaine Ottens)

We have a wealth of talent in WPC so why not hold a class, demonstration, or a party? We could charge a nominal fee per person (which will go to the church)

Here are some ideas:

Square Dance (For adults only)	Music Lessons (drums)
Margarita Party	Financial Services
Knitting class	Carpentry
Photography	Jewelry Making class

Pasta Night - or any opportunity to “break bread” with our church family (Kathy Thomas Doon Foster, Glenn Shattuck)

Pasta on a Wednesday night here at WPC Kitchen

Another idea is to host a Cultural meal evening (Spanish, Asian, French...) or have a breakfast before church service so people can talk.

Morning get-togethers for Coffee & Discussion-1x per month (Elaine Shields, Patty Connor)

At coffee hour after church, it is often hard to have a conversation and really “get to know” people (especially for those who have little ones to keep an eye on) so these coffees will give people an opportunity to talk about their joys or concerns, or anything they wish to talk about (except sports☺).

Alternate a weekday morning with a Saturday morning to give everyone a chance to attend. These coffees will be held at people's homes (each month a different person can host)

Mission Group – (Mary Marquardt, Alex Bernabei)

Soup Kitchen- continue to help out Manna House once a month just as we've been doing for many years but add on other agencies in need each month.

Find a way to “advertise” opportunities for WPC members to get more involved with hands-on mission opportunities. Again, this is something we should use our WPC web site for.

Alex compared it to the adult-version of what we have for our high school students: The faith-in-Action Sunday each month where we promote a specific issue and project for teens to get involved with.

Raise Awareness of WPC Business Owners - (David Graybill)

We should identify and create a list of WPC members and friends who own and/or work at local businesses. We should encourage our brothers & sisters to SHOP LOCAL and help support these businesses as they are the backbone of our community. Again, here's where we can also use our website in addition to doing an occasional listings to be included in our newsletter.

**“PASTA PLUS FELLOWSHIP” DINNERS**

**Beginning Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 - 7:30 PM in the Gathering Space.**

Pasta and beverages will be provided. Please bring salad and bread or a dessert to share. To help defray expenses, we are asking for a voluntary contribution of \$5 per person, \$15.00 for families of 3 or more. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church after worship (so we can better plan quantities) – but RSVP not necessary. Just come! These dinners will continue every Wednesday through April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to join the Pasta Team to help – even if only for one week – contact Cathy Thomas at 914-533-2580 or [bg1canton@aol.com](mailto:bg1canton@aol.com).

## GIRLFRIENDS UNITE (Again!)

The next ten-week session of “The Girlfriends’ Guide to the Bible” will begin on Friday, February 27, at 10:30am. We will be using the curriculum “Experiencing the Bible Again For the First Time.” Based on the work of Marcus Borg, the class sessions invite us to, in Borg’s words, “Take the Bible seriously, but not literally.” We will engage with scripture personally and powerfully in ways that are relevant to our 21<sup>st</sup> century postmodern experience. The program is also designed to promote a sense of community and friendship and will help us connect and get to know each other better. Please mark your calendars with our class schedule:

February 27	Seeing the Bible Again
March 6	The Bible and God
March 13	History and Metaphor
March 20	Creation Stories
March 27	The Pentateuch (First 5 Books of the Bible)
April 3	The Prophets
April 10	Wisdom Literature
	(No class April 17)
April 24	The Gospels
May 1	Paul
May 8	Revelation

Plans are currently developing to offer this women’s Bible study class a second time each week, at a time and day more convenient for women who can’t make the Friday morning classes—stay tuned for details as they become available.

## WPC LENTEN BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

“Experiencing the Bible Again for the First Time”

Members and friends of WPC are invited to participate in a church-wide Lenten Bible study program beginning Ash Wednesday, February 25. There will be a number of groups meeting each week, all using this curriculum, which is based on the work of Marcus Borg, author of Reading the Bible Again For the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously But Not Literally. Classes will help us see the Bible in new ways that are relevant to our 21<sup>st</sup> century experience. The curriculum also has a focus on community building and is designed to help us connect and get to know each other better as we learn together.

The first class open to the entire church family will be presented during the Ash Wednesday supper and worship service (6:30pm to 8:00pm on February 25). The other all-church classes will follow on Monday evenings, 7:30pm to 8:30pm, March 2 through March 30. In addition, the Men’s Bible Study Group (Tuesdays at 12 noon), and the Women’s Bible Study group (Fridays at 10:30am) will also be using the program. We hope that as many folk as possible will join one of these classes as a part of their spiritual discipline during this season of Lent. Please mark your calendars:

All-Church (“Co-Ed”) Bible Study Class, Wednesday, Feb 25, 6:30-8pm (With Supper)

Men’s Bible Study Group

Women’s Bible Study Group

(This group will continue beyond Lent through May 15)

Mondays in March, 7:30-8:30pm

Tuesdays at Noon, Beginning Feb 24

Fridays at 10:30am, Beginning Feb 27

**THE FIRST SUNDAY IN MARCH**

**March 1, 2009**

**JOINT WORSHIP**

***Wilton Presbyterian Church and Grace Baptist Church (South Norwalk)***

***In WPC Sanctuary***

***9:30 AM (NOTE CHANGE IN TIME FOR THIS SUNDAY ONLY)***

***The Rev. Lindsay Curtis, Grace Baptist Church, preaching.***

If ever was a time and place for interracial worship of God, this is it! Come celebrate the “richness of the diversity of God’s creation in this time and in this place.